

# Many Welsh votes are barred in miners' poll after suspected rigging

Miners have voted by 61.5 per cent against 39.5 per cent to the National Coal Board's continuity scheme, which would have given face workers up to a week more, it was learnt yesterday. Votes from about a dozen pits in South Wales have been disqualified. There are certain to be charges of politically motivated "ballot-rigging" against the left, our Labour Editor writes. These could have far-reaching effects within the miners' leadership.

## 3-2 against board's scheme

Routledge, the Electoral Reform Society, says that the votes of a number of branches have been "withheld pending an explanation". The branches involved have had their votes disqualified and an analysis of the "votes cast" table shows that most of them must be in South Wales, where the number of valid votes has fallen by half from the February total of 26,901 to 13,340. Other areas where the vote has fallen include the Scottish collieries, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, but this does not necessarily mean that some branches have forfeited their votes in those coalfields. Apparently the NUM has not been given any reason why the votes of about a dozen pits in South Wales, a left-wing led colliery, should have been disqualified. It is not unusual for some ballot papers to be ruled out of the count because they have been incorrectly filled in, but nothing on that scale has happened before. Incompetence may be a charitable explanation, but the more likely reason is that some collieries returned more ballot papers than there were miners. Because of the lower turnout, it is difficult to calculate exactly the number of "suspect" votes, but it is likely to run into five figures. The NUM executive, which is not due to meet until December 12, is almost certain to order an internal inquiry into the disqualifications, and the issue could have far-reaching repercussions within the miners' leadership and in the Labour movement generally. Ironically, the NUM would have gone in favour of the left's policy of opposition in any case, for that reason the moderates on the NUM executive will probably not press for it to be re-run. Leaving aside the disqualified votes, the pithead ballot has been a remarkable success for the militants, only a month ago they were given little chance of persuading the men not to produce the substantial pay increases on offer if the men agreed to local incentives. In its final form, the coal board scheme proposed up to £12.50 a week for 86,000 face and development workers who produce the coal and 63 per cent of the weekly average productivity bonus earned by the face men for 144,000 other pitmen. On hearing the ballot result, the coal board said last night: "It is disappointing, of course. We were confident that if the scheme had been accepted we would have been able to reach, or at least get very close to, our jointly agreed output objective of 120 million tons in the year ending next March, and also give ourselves a good basis for future expansion."



Mr Karamanlis waves to supporters, after casting his vote in Athens yesterday.

## Karamanlis landslide in election

From Mario Modiano Athens, Nov 17. New Democracy, the party of Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, appeared to be headed for a landslide victory in the Greek general elections, the first after seven years of military rule. The first official returns gave his conservative party 58.3 per cent of votes in 330 of the 351 polling stations throughout the country with 41,907 votes out of 71,500. The Centre Union/New Forces was second with 14,395 votes; the Panhellenic Socialist Party polled 8,751 votes, and the Communists gained 4,546 votes. The extreme right wing party National Democratic Union (EDE), which protects the friends of the fallen dictatorship, received a mere 1.4 per cent. More than an election, this was a day of rejoicing for the Greeks. So much so that it almost became irrelevant which party would actually win. It was, no doubt, the quietest, the calmest, and the fairest election ever held in this country. Thousands of Athenians, after voting, went to the Polytechnic as if to say "thank you". It was the Polytechnic revolt—smothered in blood by the Army and the police—exactly one year ago today, that burst open the way to democracy. The pilgrims tied bouquets of flowers on the railings of the

Polytechnic, each accompanied by a note with a phrase or poem dedicated to at least 18 Greeks killed in the massacre. "To you who gave what we had no courage to give ourselves," said one handwritten note. A bunch of red carnations signed: "From a father and a mother... carried this message: 'To the young ones who gave their blood to rid us of beastly violence.'" Inside the Polytechnic, the heavy iron gate warped by the impact of the Army tank which ended the siege lay on the ground where it had collapsed on that eventful night. Today it was covered with floral tributes from pilgrims who sobbed silently as they passed by. King Constantine of the Hellenes, whose future the party will determine next month by referendum, sent this message from his exile in Britain: "My thoughts today turn with admiration to the heroes of the Polytechnic whose sacrifice opened the road to freedom. I pay devoted homage to the memory of the heroic dead who shall be symbols of sacrifice, human dignity and freedom. We shall not forget!" The Polytechnic, in a sense, became more relevant today than the elections. Otherwise there was heavy polling in the districts of Athens and Piraeus where more than one-fifth of all six million registered voters reside. Voting is compulsory under Greek law for all adults up to the age of 70. Some 1,425 candidates are contesting 288 seats in Parliament. Twelve other seats are reserved for the so-called "state deputies" who are nominated from nationwide party lists.

## Physicists excited over new particle

Stanford, California, Nov. 17. American physicists yesterday announced the discovery of a new kind of elementary particle—a basic constituent of all matter—with hitherto unknown properties. The discovery was made independently by scientific teams at Stanford University's linear accelerator centre and the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York. In an announcement made simultaneously by both laboratories, Mr Burton Richter, of the Stanford team, and Mr Samuel C. C. Ting, of the Brookhaven team, said: "The suddenness of the discovery, coupled with the totally unexpected properties of the particle are what make it so exciting. It is not like the particles we know and must have some new kind of structure." The researchers said that they did not yet fully understand the discovery but it might fill in some spaces in the physical knowledge of the universe. "The discovery is abstract. We do not know what it means," they said. Theorists were "working frantically" to fit the discovery into the framework of present knowledge. Elementary particles, so small that they cannot be seen with a microscope, make up all matter and energy. It has long been known that atoms are composed of three fundamental, or elementary, particles—the protons and neutrons, making up the core of atoms, and the electrons circling them somewhat like the planets orbiting the sun. The new particle, which has been given the name Psi, is said to have hitherto unknown properties. According to Mr Richter, the Psi particle is "different from all the other particles we know. It lives 100,000 times longer than any other particle, and therefore must have a new kind of structure." One physicist said the existence of the particle may eventually explain many discrepancies in fundamental physical theories. Another scientist said: "This is one of the biggest discoveries in high energy physics in years anywhere in the world." Both the Stanford and Brookhaven groups said the new particle occurred at an energy of just over three billion electron volts. They said the particle decays into other heavy particles, called hadrons or leptons, in one hundred billionths of a billionth of a second. On a nuclear time scale this is a remarkably long life. Both laboratories made their discoveries while conducting research for the United States Atomic Energy Commission—AP and UPI.

## Peart seeks EC help food supplies

Mr. Minister of Agriculture, sets out his most difficult EEC mission so far. He is trying to persuade the other Community members to take action to safeguard supplies of sugar, beef, butter and his main task in Brussels will be to agree on what terms to offer sugar countries of the developing world for ports of 1,400,000 tons of cane sugar.

## Banker's Kuwait visit

The weekend visit to Kuwait by Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, was not the result of Mr Healey's decision to allow the present sterling guarantee arrangement to lapse at the end of the year, a Bank spokesman said yesterday. The trip had been arranged weeks ago.

## Independence rejected

Racial divisions in South Africa deepened when leaders of the African homelands decided to reject at this stage the Government's concept of independent Bantustans and Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, ruled out one man, one vote representation in a single parliament.

## Irish presidency

Political leaders in the Irish Republic are expected to meet this week to agree on a candidate for the presidency to succeed Mr Childers, who died early yesterday.

## Pledge to the hungry

The world food conference ended in Rome with the nations pledged to ensure that "within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread."

## Tenants' progress

Powerful private residents' group told that new Act greatly strengthens their rights in struggle with landlords.

## Dining out

Egon Ronay's new Dunlop Guide, published today, lists the highs and lows of British cuisine.

## Petrol price rise

Owners of garage breakdown trucks threaten to converge on Parliament unless the Government concedes higher profit margins.

## Rome: The Pope says

ransom money will become damned in the hands of Italy's kidnappers.

## Paris: Army begins to clear

streets of the strike-bound French capital.

## Washington: Mr Ford

withdraws the name of a former Nixon supporter he had nominated as Ambassador to Spain.

## Money supply

Bank of England figures show a 7 per cent average growth over the past three months, which is seen as moderate.

## Oman: Ten-page Special Report

on progress from despotic rule to welfare state.

## Mr Ford leaves for Far East

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Nov 17. President Ford set off to the Far East this morning, saying that he would rather travel a thousand miles for peace than take a single step for war. The Soviet Ambassador gave him a big brown fur hat to keep him warm at Vladivostok and a group of Scouts cheered him loudly in the rain. This is Mr Ford's first trip abroad since he became President, apart from a brief excursion across the Mexican border. Before climbing into his helicopter on the White House lawn, he said his trip was "in the highest national interest of the United States" because "we live in a world whose problems are inter-related. Tokyo on alert, page 8; leading article, page 15.

## Threat of a new Middle East war recedes

From Paul Martin Beirut, Nov 17. The threat of an imminent Middle East war receded today after a major cease-fire agreement of military brinkmanship since the October 1973 war. However, the armies of Israel and Syria remained on alert along the Golan Heights front, the focal point of renewed tension in the area. A Syria accused Israel of manufacturing the latest "war scare" as a means of preparing public opinion for a pre-emptive attack against the Arabs. In a broadcast over Damascus, a government spokesman said that Syria was prepared and capable of defending itself. The weekend crisis, which was defused only through intensive superpower diplomacy, posed the most serious threat so far to the fragile peace in the Middle East. In addition to a full-scale conflict between Israel and Syria, it threatened a reversal of the peacemaking process on the Sinai front. Clearly, the crisis had more to do with Israel's claim of a massive Soviet arms buildup in Syria. The Syrians, dissatisfied with the lack of progress in an Israeli withdrawal in Golan, have been engaged in their own silent brinkmanship, withholding their decision on the United Nations peacekeeping force along the disengagement line. They must make their decision on the future role of the force within two weeks. Israel has made it clear that it would regard a Syrian decision to oust the United Nations force as a hostile act. This is taken to mean that it would in fact look upon it as a *casus belli*. The force is the only thing separating the two armies along the 30-mile front on the Golan Heights. Ever since the October war in Continued on page 8, col 1

## IRA threat to intensify bomb campaign in Britain

The Provisional IRA will increase its violence campaign in Britain, David O'Connell, the self-styled chief of staff, said in a television interview yesterday. He declared on commercial television's *Weekend World* that the only condition for a cessation would be a statement of the British Government's intent to withdraw its troops from Northern Ireland. "The British Government and the British people must realize that because of the terror waged by the troops in Ireland they must suffer the consequences," he said. He said that military, judicial and other targets were liable to attack. "The responsibility rests fairly and squarely with the British Government. The situation could be changed overnight if they said: 'We are not going to stay in Northern Ireland.' The British Government held the key to peace or war. The timetable for the troops' withdrawal was negotiable. What was not negotiable was the principle of a declaration of intent. If the British Government made its declaration there would be a new situation. Mr O'Connell's terms for peace were: a simple statement of fact that the British Government intended to disengage the release of all political prisoners in England, Ireland and Scotland; and the setting up of an all-Ireland convention. Mr O'Connell indicated that the deaths of civilians in the M62 coach explosion were an accident. "It was a military coach and all our intelligence indicated there would be no civilians aboard," he said. He blamed civilian deaths in other bombings on the fact that the British police had not public the codes they had devised to give warnings of impending explosions. Other Irish news, page 2



A reflection of good taste  
Blue Nun from Sichel  
right through the meal.

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## HOME NEWS

## Government attacked for condemning Rolls-Royce pay rise

The Government's "cowardly, dishonest and despicable attack" on Rolls-Royce over its 53-a-week payment to 6,000 Scottish workers, announced on Friday, was condemned yesterday by Mr Peter Rost, MP. He said he was submitting a private notice of motion in the House of Commons today over what he described as the Government's hypocritical behaviour, and was also tabling detailed questions to Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment.

The Department of Employment on Friday condemned the settlement, which ended a five-week strike, as a serious breach of the social contract.

Yesterday, Mr Rost, Conservative MP for Derbyshire, South-East, called on the Government to apologise for its criticism of the company.

"All the blame apparently falls on a company which is faced with a threat of industrial blackmail, yet no blame at all attaches to those who forced them to surrender. The Government and Michael Foot are scared to criticize their own union colleagues", he claimed.

Mr Heath, Leader of the Opposition, speaking last night to Young Conservatives in his Sidcup constituency, said that Rolls-Royce had had no alternative to the pay award. If the strike continued, its customers could not be served.

"We have a strange situation, because it was the Labour Party which always accused us of trying to keep down wages in nationalized industry", he said. "Here we have a clear case of a Labour government telling Rolls-Royce to keep wages down".

Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of Rolls-Royce, who defended the settlement yesterday on the radio programme *The World This Week*, had said on Saturday that American-owned aircraft powered by Rolls-Royce engines would have been grounded soon by a lack of spare parts if the company had not settled the strike.

## NUJ chief denies censorship charge

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Kenneth Morgan, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said last night in London that the NUJ was concerned at "continued misrepresentation" of its position over its dispute with the Newspaper Society, the organization of provincial and suburban employers.

In the dispute the union has been operating sanctions, including the "blacking" of copy it considers "union-baiting" in support of its 10% pay rise of between £7.69 and £13.31 for provincial members. The union's Institute of Journalists has called this "blatant censorship".

The union has called a strike from today of London suburban members in protest at the dismissal of 66 journalists on the *Kentish Times* group and one on the *Evening Mail*, Slough.

Mr Morgan said last night at a press conference that the union position on censorship remained what it had always been: an absolute commitment to oppose censorship of newspapers or other media wherever attempts were made from outside by Government or commercial interests, or from inside by trade unions or trade union pressure groups.

The union had no ambition to control the editorial content of newspapers, Mr Morgan said. The union was under tremendous pressure from our customers, he said. Sir Kenneth pointed out that the settlement incorporated some productivity features which would reduce the cost of the increases. He agreed the settlement might influence demands at other Rolls-Royce plants for extra money. "It is one of the risks we have had to take", he said.

Rolls-Royce is a nationally owned company and a Government spokesman said on Friday that the settlement might affect its chances of securing more Government money in the future. "That would be ridiculous", Sir Kenneth said on Saturday. "They would just be cutting off their noses to spite their faces".

Leading article, page 15

## Tenants' group told of progress in struggle

By a Staff Reporter

An important engagement in the struggle between landlords and tenants took place on Saturday. The Conference of Private Residents Associations, (COPRA), the alliance of residents' and tenants' associations in the private sector that has coalesced into a large and formidable organization in the past three years, held a conference in London.

More than a hundred associations were represented, mainly from large, middle-class blocks of flats. The financiers of the property companies who bought such blocks can have had little idea of the mighty, talented, and articulate army of tenants they were taking on.

One of the most talented and articulate spokesmen for tenants' rights, Mr Muir Hunter, QC, was the chief speaker at the conference. He explained in detail the new powers and rights that the Housing Act, 1974, will confer on private tenants.

A sign of COPRA's remarkably swift growth is the part it is playing as the negotiating body for the tenants' movement with the Government and landlords, and the direct impact it is having on legislation, as in the 1974 Act.

Mr Hunter said that one of the important achievements of the Act was the establishment of the statutory right of the tenant to know who his landlord was and who the landlord's directors were, and to be informed if there was any change among them. "It has stopped the ping pong to which tenants were subjected when they wanted to know who their landlord was, the absurd fairy stories they were told", he said.

A second important advance was the extension of a tenant's powers to obtain a judicial review of his service charges by a court. The court could now consider not only the reasonableness of the charges, but also the reasonableness of the services supplied.

A third advance was the recognition by the judicial machine of the statutory exist-

ence of tenants' associations. Mr Hunter said: "In the past many landlords have in an absurd way refused to recognize tenants' associations. Now a court can recognize an association if it shows that it represents 50 per cent of the tenants".

A fourth advance was the duty put on landlords to obtain independent assessors for service charges at a certain level. "We are laying the foundation for some participation in management by tenants, and we look forward ultimately to the time when recognized tenants' associations are given a say in management, rather like worker-directors in industry in some countries", Mr Hunter said.

But perhaps the most radical section of the Act was section 125, the "specific performance" section. This gave tenants a right to apply to the county court for an order compelling the landlords to carry out specific repairing obligations on their properties. Should an order be granted, since those are civil proceedings, non-compliance with it puts the defaulter in contempt of court.

For a company the penalty falls upon its directors.

Mr Hunter said: "When a landlord defaults on his contract, you can sue him for damages, but until last August it was believed for historical and juridical reasons, that you could not set an order obliging him to do specific repairs. The greatest grievance of all tenants' associations, failure by the landlord to maintain the property, can now be remedied by a specific performance order obliging him to do the necessary repairs".

The conference also discussed cooperative ownership schemes for blocks of flats with a view to enabling tenants to become their own landlords. A working party was set up to devise a standard lease for tenants of flats like the standard agricultural and business leases, in order to eliminate aberrations in some leases and to promote a good code of practice for the relationship between landlords and tenants.

## DEATHS

**McDade**—Lieutenant James Patrick, died on active service. Proudly remembered by Command Staff, Officers and Personnel. Aged 31. Aged 31. Aged 31.

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## Talks this week on new Eire President

By Robert Fisk

The leaders of the three or four political parties in the Irish Republic are expected to meet this week to try to find an agreed nominee for President of the Republic of Ireland after the death early yesterday of Mr Eoin MacBride.

One of the strongest contenders is Mr Sean MacBride, who is 70. He is UN Commissioner in Namibia, a former central secretary of Amnesty International, and son of Maud Gonne MacBride, the republican and suffragette who was a close friend of Yeats.

Mr Childers, who was 68, a Protestant and a member of the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin on Saturday night. His daughter, who had been present at the dinner, accompanied him to hospital but shortly after 1 am yesterday he died. He succeeded President de Valera last year.

Before the election of a new president, a three-man commission automatically takes over the running of the presidency.

Mr Brendan Corish, the Irish Labour Party leader, Mr Jack Lynch, of Fianna Fail, and Mr Liam Cosgrave, the Irish Prime Minister, are expected to meet this week. Mr Childers will probably be buried in his native Wicklow.

Another possible candidate is Dr Frederick Boland, Irish Ambassador at the UN and Chancellor of Trinity College, Dublin.

Obituary, page 15

## Intensive security jail planned in Ulster

From Christopher Walker

Plans for a large intensive security prison in Northern Ireland will be announced this week by Sir Reginald, the Secretary of State.

Prisoners and their relatives have been troubling the authorities and urgent attempts have been made to complete details of the new prison.

It is understood that it will not be built at Long Kesh, the site of the Maze prison, which has such emotive connotations for republicans and "loyalists" alike. One possible site is near the market town of Ballynahinch, about 30 miles from Belfast, where the Ministry of Defence owns a large isolated plot of land.

Plans to ease prison overcrowding have been in preparation for some time, but have been hampered by inability to

predict the size of the prison population. When the new jail is complete the Maze can be phased out, but until then the tense and difficult situation there will continue.

There is also serious unrest among Provisional IRA men in the A wing at Crumlin Road prison, Belfast.

Trouble began after violent disturbances which coincided with the Maze riots, and 60 of the prisoners are on indefinite hunger strike. They say they are prepared to die unless their conditions are improved.

At a sombre ceremony, the third of its kind, in the grounds of Belfast City Hall yesterday, wooden crosses were laid for every person killed by violence since the troubles began in August, 1969. Many relatives attended. Altogether 1,120 crosses appeared, compared with 909 last year.

The latest victim was named yesterday as Thomas Macredmond, aged 34, a private in the Ulster Defence Regiment. He was shot when a mobile patrol was ambushed near Newry on Saturday. He was due to be married next weekend.

## Quads improving

The condition of the two survivors of quadruplets born to Mrs Diane Lomax in Oldham and District Hospital early on Friday was improving yesterday.

## Rail line for trust

A trust is to be set up to take over the historic Bowes Mineral Line in Co Durham. The railway opened a year after the Stockton to Darlington Line.

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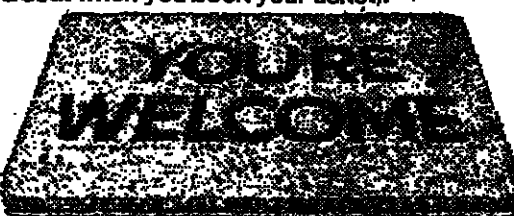
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## Welsh votes barred in miners' poll

continued from page 1

When the coal board meets national officials of the NUM tomorrow, ostensibly to talk about NCB "interference" in the ballot, it will almost certainly pave the way for interim pay talks aimed at securing peace in the pits for the time being with an all-round increase for 250,000 miners.

That could be achieved by consolidating threshold money into basic rates, and by continuing the machinery for automatic increases in pay when the cost of living goes up. Those arrangements are due to expire at the end of the month.

Militant members of the NUM executive are arguing that the union should now concentrate its efforts on pursuing a claim for basic rate increases of up to £30 a week.

MINERS' BALLOT ON COAL BOARD PRODUCTIVITY SCHEME					
COALFIELD	YES	% In-favour	NO	Total Valid	Feb ballot
* Colliery	2,313	65	1,200	5,513	4,580
* Cumberland	279	30	620	899	880
* Durham	5,771	30.1	8,802	15,273	17,811
* North Derbyshire	2,747	31.1	5,532	8,279	10,871
* Kent	698	31	1,538	2,236	2,360
* Lancashire	3,185	38.6	5,013	8,198	8,831
* Leicestershire	1,784	28.7	4,376	6,160	6,130
* Midlands	5,255	44.6	6,824	12,079	12,905
* Northumberland	3,224	44.9	4,182	7,406	8,420
* North Wales	1,784	31.1	3,776	5,560	5,560
* Nottinghamshire	15,985	33.5	32,147	48,132	52,233
* Scotland	3,898	33	11,855	15,753	16,587
* South Derbyshire	724	29.2	1,780	2,504	2,504
* Yorkshire	8,038	16.5	40,958	48,996	54,570
* Durham Mechanics	3,385	61.9	2,021	5,406	5,837
* Durham Engineers	820	72.5	302	1,122	1,122
* Northumberland Mechanics	1,407	71	559	1,966	2,181
* Yorkshire Engineers	173	81.5	135	308	370
* Scottish Colliery	1,568	2.8	5,375	6,943	4,581
* Colliery Officials & Staff	11,419	61.5	2,461	13,880	15,388
* COSA (Midlands Critics)	68	100	0	68	8,887
* Power Sp 2 (Yorkshire collieries)	548	80	353	901	901
* South Wales	2,395	18	10,945	13,340	26,905
TOTALS	77,119	35.5	123,345	200,464	232,615



## TALKING NEWS

Storm over Crossman  
aries creates  
lemma for Mr Foot

Michael Hatfield  
cal Staff  
storm that has arisen  
publication of the contro-  
diaries of the late Rich-  
Crossman, is placing Mr  
Secretary of State for Em-  
ment, in an invidious  
one of those closely in-  
d believe that the Govern-  
may delay publication of  
diaries because of their dis-  
about Cabinet meetings  
1964-66 Labour Adminis-  
on.  
that prediction is accurate  
th publishers meet the  
enge, Mr Foot may be  
with the choice of re-  
ng as one of Mr Crossman's  
ary executors or from the  
net. The other two execu-  
are Mrs Anne Crossman  
Mr Graham C. Green,  
aging director of Jonathan  
the publishers.  
ere an impasse to be  
bed and the Government  
ded to enforce its decision  
or the Official Secrets Act  
ugh the courts, the legal  
Mr would have to be brought  
Mr Silkin, the Attorney  
eral. An impossible situation

would arise if two Cabinet min-  
sters found themselves on  
opposite sides in a case before  
the courts.

Mr Foot is understood to have  
had the situation very much in  
mind when he accepted Mr  
Wilson's offer to join the  
Cabinet when Labour was  
returned to office in February.  
He discussed his position with  
the other executives. They  
were understood to have told him  
that they had no objection if  
he wished to resign.

Mr Foot decided against  
resigning, saying that he had  
given a promise to Mr Crossman,  
who was a close friend, and that  
he, treated the appointment  
seriously. It was being suggested  
last night that Mrs Crossman  
and Mr Greene, might not look  
so favourably on his resignation  
now that it appeared that battle  
had been joined.

Mr Foot's views on the merits  
of the Crossman diaries were  
made public at a memorial ser-  
vice for Mr Crossman on May  
15. His address on that occasion  
is to be published, with those by  
other speakers at the service, in  
book form by Granada.

Egon Ronay's guide lists 200 London restaurants  
where £5.50 buys a good meal for two

## The peaks and troughs of British fare

By Philip Howard

Egon Ronay, the arbiter of  
gastronomic elegance with the  
digestion of an ostrich, makes a  
concession to inflation of the  
financial kind today. His *Dunlop  
Guide* has a section on green  
pages listing economy evening  
meals in London. What economy  
means in these days is £5.50 for  
two, for which each economical  
diner gets two courses, half a  
carafe of wine, coffee, service,  
and value-added tax.

The guide lists about two  
hundred establishments where  
it is possible to dine compara-  
tively cheaply, paying its usual  
fastidious attention to the  
efficiency and friendliness of  
the service, cleanliness, and at-  
mosphere and interior decoration.

The menus, described in the  
guide's customary sprightly but  
abdominally serious tone, show  
that it is not necessary to pig it  
at that price. They encompass  
everything from "sucking pig,  
hare in port, or even faggots"  
to Russian *krasny* (croquettes),  
bigr and sausages, and *shostik*.

As well as surveying the  
heights of British cooking and  
cuing, the guide again plumbs

the depths, this year exploring  
the catering provided at Heath-  
row and Gatwick airports. The  
only possible moral to be drawn  
from its exploration is that  
anybody who has to fly from  
London should either take  
sandwiches or go hungry.

The description of filth,  
grudging service, long waits  
and foul food is an antidote to  
appetite. The only positive  
comment it can make about the  
catering at Heathrow is about  
the buffet in terminal 2, where  
"staff manage to keep cheerful  
and friendly in the grim condi-  
tions".

A pat of butter weighing a  
quarter of an ounce cost 4p  
there; that works out for those  
prodigal enough to eat butter  
regularly at Heathrow at £2.56  
a pound. At Gatwick the  
restaurant is described as  
"absolutely deplorable; dirty,  
with poor food and inept  
service". In the buffet, also  
managed by J. Lyons, the room  
is dreary and dirty and the food  
unacceptable. The grill is said  
to offer indifferent food with  
service that is inattentive but  
affable and willing.

The guide argues that air-  
ports, like motorways and rail-

148 people died  
last year  
while bathing

By a Staff Reporter

A small boy fell into a bucket  
of water up to his shoulders  
and could not get out, and  
another fell into a water holder  
while concrete was being mixed.  
The infants were two of 136  
children drowned last year  
while playing near water, a  
report by the Royal Life Saving  
Society says today. The com-  
parative figure for 1971, when  
the previous survey was made,  
was 118.

Excluding suicide and open  
verdict deaths, 715 people died  
from drowning in 1973 (750 in  
1971). It was a good, mild  
summer, when there is more  
bathing than in cooler weather,  
and there were 148 deaths from  
bathing (against 181; 47 in the  
sea, 91 in inland waters, and 10  
cases where the distinction was  
not clear, but which probably  
occurred inland).

There were 35 deaths in super-  
vised swimming pools (36 in  
1971). Seven victims, including  
four aged 11-15, died while try-  
ing to swim across rivers and  
there were 30 deaths among  
anglers.

In 59 of the drownings (51 in  
1971), alcohol was a contributory  
cause.  
*Analysis of Fatal Drowning Acci-  
dents, 1973* (Royal Life Saving  
Society, 60 Piccadilly, Street,  
London, W1N 2AT).



Some of 8,000 Jewish ex-Servicemen who  
marched in their remembrance parade in  
Whitehall yesterday.

Social services 'ignoring'  
elderly black people

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent  
Local authorities should give  
money to local black groups to  
enable them to supply "curry  
on wheels" and other social  
services to elderly immigrants,  
an Age Concern report says  
today. Most of the 27,000  
elderly black people in Britain  
have needs which are rarely  
met by local authority social  
services, it says.

The report, written by two  
staff members of the Com-  
munity Relations Commission,  
says that elderly black people  
share the same hardships as  
elderly white people in  
deprived inner-city areas,  
where their housing is poor  
and they survive on low in-  
comes. But elderly black peo-  
ple are particularly at risk  
because they are over-repre-  
sented in such areas and suffer  
from insecurity, frequent  
moves and a challenge to their  
own culture.

In addition, they are  
deprived of the care they  
would have received in their  
home country. In most of the  
new Commonwealth countries  
they would expect care as of  
right from the rest of the fam-  
ily.

But in Britain, the cultural

pattern is broken because  
English houses are too small  
for the extended family and  
economic circumstances force  
women to work instead of stay-  
ing in the home.

In Brixton, London, for  
example, the local authority  
did not believe there were any  
retired West Indians. But a  
West Indian senior citizens'  
association, started by the local  
neighbourhood community  
association, rapidly attracted a  
membership of more than 70.  
The association provides some  
of the services that elderly  
white people usually receive  
from the local authority, in-  
cluding a day centre and meals.

The report points out that  
most social services provided  
for old people are irrelevant to  
black people. Very few live in  
old people's homes; one Asian  
admitted to a home left after a  
few weeks because he felt out  
of place, cut off by language,  
custom and the general unfam-  
iliarity of the life style.  
Meals on wheels do not help  
because the food is totally  
foreign to their taste.

*Elderly Ethnic Minorities*, by  
Celia Pye-Lees and Sue Gardiner,  
(Age Concern, 60 Piccadilly Road,  
Mitcham, Surrey, 20p).

Solicitors  
oppose  
levy on self  
employed

A proposed levy on the self-  
employed would be followed by  
more measures until all self-  
employed people were removed,  
a conference at Leamington Spa  
of the British Legal Association,  
a solicitors' ginger group, was  
told yesterday.

Mr Walker Elwell, supporting  
a motion opposing the increase,  
said: "The left wing of the  
Labour Party hates self-  
employed people. Year by  
year this tax will steadily  
increase until all self-employed  
people are removed."

Mr Elwell was speaking of  
the social security amendment  
Bill, under which the self-  
employed will pay more but get  
no additional benefit. The con-  
ference unanimously passed the  
motion.

Mr Elwell said the Chancellor  
of the Exchequer had found a  
class of people who did not seem  
to have a particular union,  
organization or means of  
expressing themselves. He was  
going to tax them mercilessly.

The motion was proposed by  
Mr Arnold Weiler, who said the  
social security increase was  
nothing more than an extra  
income tax. It was one of the  
greatest breaches of the prin-  
ciple of treating the whole  
nation as one family that could  
be conceived.

The conference rejected a  
motion criticizing Mr Justice  
Faulks for his "pink knickers"  
statement in a recent divorce  
case. Mr Peter Reeves, a solici-  
tor, who proposed the motion,  
said such remarks could be  
damaging to those referred to  
and to the profession.

Mr Jeffrey Gordon, a solicitor,  
defended the judge, saying the  
"pink knickers" example was  
used to illustrate what he con-  
sidered to be an absurdity in the  
Divorce Reform Act, 1969.

In an attack on neighbour-  
hood law centres, Mr Derek  
Wilks, secretary of the associa-  
tion's legal aid committee said:  
"Law centres advertise, they  
are open day and night, they  
are able to work at a cheaper  
rate because of the existence of  
idealistic young misguided mem-  
bers of our profession. Law  
centres can kill our profession  
in a few months."

Mr Edward Deal, of Bristol,  
said some centres were staffed  
by "cranky academics from the  
new order of universities. . .  
They are not interested in  
acting for any sector of the  
community that they regard as  
politically undesirable."

On Saturday Mr Robert Mort,  
the association's chairman, said  
that defiance of the law by the  
Clay Cross rebels could be a  
step towards George Orwell's  
1984. Traditional standards were  
falling to the point where the  
law was being openly defied.

Police criticized  
for tactics at  
demonstrations

The National Council for Civil  
Liberties has complained that  
tactics of the Special Patrol  
Group of the Metropolitan  
Police can cause utter confusion  
at demonstrations.

In a document which it will  
publish today to the resumed  
official inquiry which Lord  
Justice Scarman is conducting  
in the clashes between left-  
wingers and police in Red Lion  
square, London, in June, the  
council says: "It is particu-  
larly noticeable that the Special  
Patrol Group has developed a  
reputation for such tactics,  
rich in itself serves to raise  
the temperature of the situa-  
tion."

The council says it has in the  
past paid tribute to police on  
duty at demonstrations, but  
it has also criticized the use of  
sudden police manoeuvres  
which are liable to breed confusion  
and violence.

It criticizes the idea that the  
police should be able, of their  
own volition, to decide whether  
a demonstration is to take place.

## Transfusion girl dies

Angela Watson, aged six, who  
was given a bone marrow trans-  
fusion two months ago, died  
of a heart failure in Middles-  
brough hospital on Saturday.

## Risk of heavy unemployment, Tory says

The level of unemployment  
by this time next year would  
be more than anything else  
on the size of pay settlements in  
the next few months, Mr Robert  
Carr, Opposition spokesman on  
Treasury Affairs, said on Satur-  
day.

The choice really is between  
more pay or more jobs, he told  
a conference of Young Conserva-  
tives at Crick, near Northamp-  
ton.

If pay rises on average could  
be kept down to a level that did  
not more than match the in-  
creases in prices, then there was  
hope of keeping the upsurge in  
unemployment within reason-  
able bounds. "But if they go  
above this, the position will  
become very serious," he added.

Mr Carr criticized the Govern-  
ment for scrapping the Con-  
servative Administration's em-  
ployment controls and for allow-  
ing the present wage explosion  
to develop. "Now," he said,  
"the danger of heavy unem-  
ployment in the next year or  
two is much greater than it  
need have been."

Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal  
leader, said on Saturday that  
housewives would soon be join-  
ing farmers in street protests  
unless something was done to  
save British agriculture from  
bankruptcy.

Speaking at Barnstaple, he  
said: "Two years ago a Tory  
government did, away with-

the guaranteed price, which left  
the farmer at the mercy of the  
world market. At the same time  
it urged farmers to help to over-  
come the glut of dairy produce  
by switching to beef. Thousands  
of farmers took that advice.

"We are now suffering from  
a beef mountain and farmers are  
queuing in the markets to sell  
up and get out. At the same  
time the housewife is paying  
exorbitant prices in the shops."

Mr Thorpe said that last week  
inquiry into the shortage of  
winter fodder, estimated by the  
NFU to be 20 per cent deficient,  
and an undertaking to press the  
EEC's Council of Ministers to  
approve the necessary action.  
That was totally inadequate, he  
said.

Unless Mr Peart, the Minister  
of Agriculture, took action in  
Brussels this week to reinstate  
a guaranteed price for fat-  
stock he would carry the grave  
responsibility for mass bank-  
ruptcies in farming, food short-  
ages and perhaps even rationing.  
Mr Short, said in Newcastle upon  
Tyne on Saturday that the Con-  
servative Party was attempting  
to run one of the most dishonest  
campaigns seen in this country  
for a very long time, based on a  
blatant political lie.

"They are getting their lead  
from the top. Edward Heath is  
manipulating as the one man  
who told the truth, the whole

truth and nothing but the truth  
about the economic plight of  
Britain.

"They created the mess, and  
for political reasons they have  
consistently attempted to divert  
people's attention from it.

"It is true that we are in dire  
straits, that many people are  
going to have to make sacrifices,  
that the next two or three years  
are going to be among the  
toughest we have experienced  
since the war. We have told the  
truth; we have spelt out the  
facts."

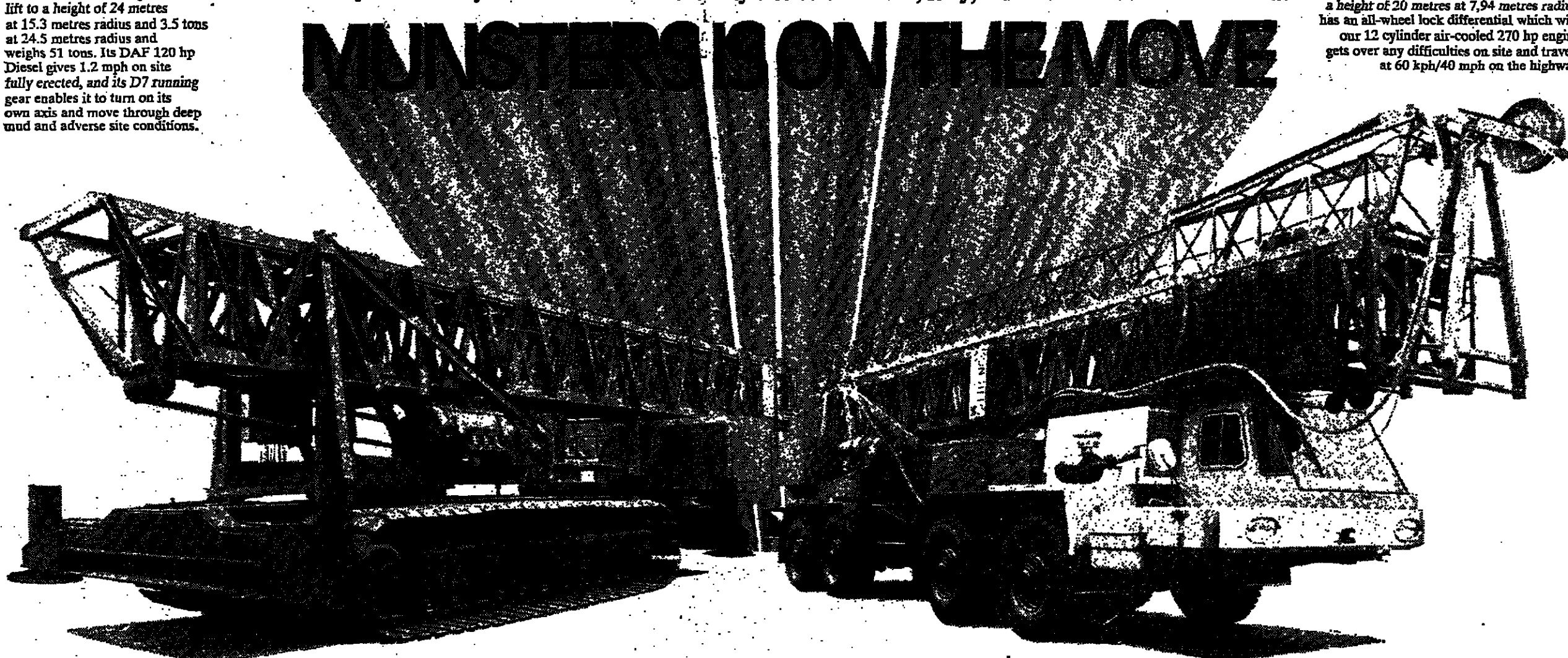
Dr Rhodes Beysen, Conservative  
MP for North Brest, told the St  
Andrews University Conserva-  
tive Association on Saturday:  
"The party must go back to its  
historical roots instead of trying  
to become a political giveaway  
shop, trying to peg together a  
policy with bits appealing to all  
types of men, like different sets  
of trading stamps."

Dr Beysen went on: "It has  
sponsored change for the sake  
of change and in a disastrous  
local government reorganization  
has created a juggernaut system  
of government which is ineffi-  
cient, expensive and destructive  
of people's roots."

"It has compromised with  
socialism and with collectivism.  
Historical Toryism had nothing  
to do with compromise but had  
strong opinions and stood by  
them."

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## HOME NEWS

## Continued growth in wealth an illusion, Lord Avebury says

By Our Political Staff

A strong attack on British politicians, trade unionists and industrialists for propagating the "illusion that there can be an everlasting growth in wealth and incomes" was made by Lord Avebury, the Liberal peer, in his presidential address to the Conservative Society in Edinburgh yesterday.

It was incontestable, Lord Avebury said, that industrial growth was a mathematical impossibility. Modest growth of 3 per cent was not plausible from the point of view of energy implications alone.

At that rate of expansion the gross domestic product would increase two and a half times between 1970 and 2001, and if the relationship between gross domestic product and primary energy remained the same as in the 20 years before 1970, "we shall be using 75 per cent more energy than in 1970, or the equivalent of 574 million tons of coal a year". Continued 3 per cent growth implied a demand for energy that could not be met, "and no amount of juggling between the fuels is going to solve the equation".

Efforts to improve the satisfaction of British workers by raising incomes were doomed to failure. Wants were being created and stimulated all the time by the political-industrial complex and leading politicians and others falsely pretended that it would be easy to meet the artificial demands if it were not for the stupidity or malice of their colleagues.

The terrifying aspect was that the whole crew assumed without question that greater material wealth was the only conceivable goal for society, and they had succeeded in brainwashing most of the people into not only accepting but ardently supporting that proposition.

Lord Avebury concluded: "The dilemma we face is that all the social pressures are working towards continued growth of the economy in general and energy consumption in particular. The Conservative Society maintains that such a policy will turn out to be physically impossible, and that attempts to carry it through, ending in failure, will lead to grave political and social unrest. All the same, there is practically no public discussion of the alternatives".

## Garage men plan to march over petrol price

By Roger Vielvoys

The owners of thousands of garage breakdown trucks from all over Britain are threatening to converge with them on Parliament within the next two weeks unless the Government concedes higher profit margins for petrol retailers.

The garage owners hope that the presence of so many breakdown vehicles will bring home to the Government the "desperate" plight of the trade.

Before the Government adjusted the maximum retail prices to take account of the additional 8½p value-added tax on a gallon of petrol, the association sent telegrams to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, and Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, asking them for an increase in margins.

Instead, the Government imposed the additional 17½ per cent VAT on all grades of petrol. In effect that means a rounding down of the selling price of four and five star petrol by 0.073p a gallon and accommodation of the 8½p extra tax. Three and two star petrol prices were rounded up by 0.073p and 0.24p.



Contestants for the Miss World title, to be judged at the Albert Hall on Friday, photographed at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square, yesterday.

## School hope for new children at Newham

By Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent

Places may be found by the end of next week for most of the 130 children waiting to go to secondary schools in the London borough of Newham. But Dr Scott Wilkie, the borough's director of education, told me yesterday that the shortage would never be overcome until teachers were prepared to take secondary school classes of more than 30 children.

The local branch of the National Union of Teachers is refusing to do so. It has a strong element of militants.

The Newham Rights Centre, on behalf of the children's parents, has employed a solicitor to see if a case can be brought against Mr Penrice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, who is their local MP. Under the Education Act, 1944, the Secretary of State has a duty to see that local education authorities provide places for all children under school-leaving age.

Dr Wilkie, who met head teachers last week, said: "I think we shall be able to offer places to all but 30 of the children by the end of next week. While class sizes have to remain at 30 it is difficult to see how the problem can be completely resolved."

He said there was no knowing if controlling the extent of the parents' pressure, through the Department of Education and Science made no provision for it.

Mrs Elsie Lewis, chairman of Newham Education Council, said: "Rather than battling against the local education authority, we are trying to get all the parents together and find how we can help the kids to get places without delay. Last year at this time, after we brought pressure on the local education authority, places were quickly found for 130 children by half term."

Newham's schools, page 11

## Ramblers oppose Peak Park quarry scheme

If ICI proposals to quarry limestone from 280 acres near Tunstead, in the Peak District National Park, were permitted the door would be opened to large-scale quarrying in national parks. Mr Alan Martingley, secretary of the Ramblers' Association, said yesterday.

ICI's appeal against the refusal of the Peak Park Planning Board to grant permission for the quarry extension, is expected to be heard early next year.

Mr Martingley maintained that the project would breach the purpose of national parks.

## Protest to Mr Benn on end of EEC Welsh surveys

Mr Dafydd Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth and the party's European spokesman, is to protest in the House of Commons this week over the decision by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, to stop three studies by the European Community Commission into the industrial and regional needs of South Wales.

Mr Thomas said yesterday: "I shall be demanding from Mr Benn an explanation of his decision, since I believe it is vitally important while Britain remains in the Common Market that Wales should get the full benefit of the Community's regional policy."

Threatened steel closures still hanging over South Wales needed to be fully investigated and if support from a European Community study of the social consequences of closure could be obtained, it would be a major argument against running down the steel industry.

Mr Thomas added: "The economic and social problems of South Wales have been neglected by successive Labour governments."

## Parole Board 'wrong to consider man's job prospect'

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Parole Board is wrong when considering parole for a prisoner to consider whether the man has a job to go to, or even whether his employment prospects are good, states a report published yesterday by the Apex Trust, the employment agency for former prisoners backed by the Home Office.

Dr Keith Southill and Mr Frederick Pentney say in *Employment and Parole* that there is no direct evidence that employment reduces recidivism.

The requirement that a man should lead an industrious life should be deleted from the parole licence.

The present system causes men to panic about their employment prospects and creates tremendous difficulties for organizations trying to find work for former prisoners.

"One must recognize that it is totally unrealistic to expect an employer to make a firm offer of a job to a man who will almost certainly not be available for up to six months", it is added.

This system of seeking employment before release where the prisoner has a definite release date has been shown to work, the report says. The earlier work of the Apex Trust has shown that if men are interviewed for employment before leaving prison they wait on average only 24 hours after release before starting work.

Men interviewed after prison wait an average of 101 days.

Dr Southill, who is lecturer in sociology at Lancaster University, and Mr Pentney, the trust's director, recommend that arranged employment or employment prospects should not be considered by the Parole Board.

Each parole applicant should be informed of the result of his application three months before his eligibility date. Where three months' notification of parole is given, the man should be offered every opportunity to approach anyone likely to be able to find him a job, especially agencies like the trust and the Department of Employment.

*Employment and Parole*, by Keith Southill and Frederick Pentney (Apex Charitable Trust, 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG. 40p post free).

## ADVERTISEMENT

## In South Africa, new business opportunities are developing as fast as our industry.

Nowadays South Africa offers more than just a vast market for the British businessman.

Our industry has grown at an ever increasing rate, founded not only on gold and diamonds, but soundly based on heavy manufacturing of all types.

As these industries continue to develop, so does our need for finance and know-how.

While our supplies of raw materials are abundant, we look more and more to our traditional friends in Britain, not only as a supplier of quality goods, but as a partner in lucrative and expanding joint investment enterprises. Together the opportunities for us are enormous.

### A brief picture of South African Industry.

"South Africa is on the eve of a golden new era of economic developments and achievements."

Not the words of an optimistic politician, but a hard-headed financier, Dr Jan Marais.

The South African government has created, and will continue to create, a sympathetic climate for growth and expansion in all areas of industry.

In the face of energy shortages and spiralling inflation, South Africa is fortunate in experiencing a growth rate which could be one of the highest in the developed world.

The future too looks promising.

Our policy is to create a nucleus in Southern Africa of independent states, to form a stable economic bloc in which each individual economy may grow unhindered by artificial restraints.

Already, we are in a customs and monetary union with Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, which holds great promise for the next 10 years.

With the Transkei homeland already negotiating for independence, self-determination for the Bantu homelands is peacefully progressing.

This will create further investment opportunities for British business. The Bantu Investment Corporation and the Xhosa Development Corporation can provide expert knowledge and useful assistance to prospective investors.

### A massive investment in the future.

Any survey of South African industry will illustrate our growth. To give some idea of the scale of our faith in the future, the following investments by the South African government are currently in hand.

1. Tremendous progress has been made on the development of the process of making oil from coal.

2. The Cabora Bassa hydro-electric scheme is nearing completion.

3. Another hydro-electric scheme even larger than the Cabora Bassa is under consideration. The project will be based on the Tugela, Natal's biggest river, and preliminary estimates indicate that it will cost more than £313 million. Tentative plans envisage ten dams feeding hydro-electric generators which will be channelled into Escom's national grid.

4. Our first nuclear power station is to be built in the Western Cape. The station will have two generators, the first of which will be on-line by 1982. Each will have a capacity of between 800 and 1000 MW.

5. Enriched uranium from our own unique process will be used in this station, from a new £344 million uranium enrichment plant.

6. The Electricity Supply Commission's capital development programme will cost about £1250 million, including an early start on a new 3000MW coal-powered station.

7. A 500 mile rail link, costing £125 million, is being built from Sishen in the northern Cape Province to Saldanha Bay, north of Cape Town, for the export of iron ore and semi-manufactured iron and steel products.

8. Extra rail capacity is being developed for the export of coal from the Witbank area in the eastern Transvaal through Richards Bay on the Natal Coast, the cost of which will be around £104 million.

(An underground system for Johannesburg is also under consideration.)

9. Richards Bay is an area undergoing intensive development.

A new harbour complex is under construction to include bulk handling facilities for coal and other raw exports, an oil refinery, an ethylene cracker and other petro-chemical plants.

10. Similar new harbour work is being done at Saldanha Bay where expenditure on berths and bulk handling is estimated at around £44 million. Two dry docks, able to accommodate vessels up to 500,000 tons are also planned.

11. ISCOR, the national steel corporation, has developments in hand costing about £813 million. This involves extensions to its three existing steel works.

12. In addition, a new steel complex is going up in the Saldanha Bay area costing £375 million.

13. Mining expansion is well in hand. An iron ore mine development at Sishen is estimated to cost more than £56 million.

14. In the Northern Transvaal, a mine and associated silicon metal smelter is being erected.

15. Television is to be introduced in 1976, and a studio complex is under construction.

16. The shipping trades between Europe and South Africa are being containerised and the first huge containership is

expected to be in operation towards the end of 1976.

### We're still backing Britain.

Already British enterprise, has played a major role in our development. It's estimated that of all direct investment in South Africa by foreign companies, UK capital and technical know-how represent 60 per cent of the total.

With our lack of restrictions on the export of profits and dividends, this directly helps the British economy. Hence the sight of a booming South African economy is good news to any British businessman.

With new export opportunities constantly opening up, the future is very bright for you indeed.

Equally, we feel that Britain will welcome many of the manufactured products that South Africa produces.

(This is already borne out by the dramatic increase over the past three years in our exports of manufactured goods to your country.)

With a rigid control over the quality of goods enforced by the South African Bureau of Standards, our exports to you are finding themselves welcomed.

(And in many cases, the goods we send you have been manufactured by companies in which British enterprise has a substantial stake.)

Here too the British businessman will find opportunities for new expansion. SAIDCOR, the government research development corporation, is already seeing encouraging results from its finance and research and development of new ideas.

What is needed is further investment by your companies in this rich field.

We continue to welcome increased co-operation between UK companies and SA enterprises in all fields of industrial activity.

Thus, as the sun shines on our Game Reserves and our beaches, it shines also on the businessman looking for new contributions to his profitability.

If you want to import from South Africa; if you want to discuss joint ventures in the Republic; if you want information about investment opportunities, please write to:

THE MINISTER (COMMERCIAL)  
SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY,  
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,  
LONDON WC2N 5DP  
TELEPHONE 01-930 4488.



Trading partners for over 200 years.

## Oxfam in deficit over appeal for Indian aid

By a Staff Reporter

Oxfam has gone into deficit for the first time, in an attempt to meet the call for help from India. Yesterday the organization announced an appeal for £150,000 to meet the commitment.

Feed All the Family, as the appeal is called, has been launched to finance the cost of 1,500 tons of grain for India. Mr Brian Walker, Oxfam's director, said the budget for work in India was £500,000, but it was found that £275,000 more was needed.

Mr Walker said: "We have committed ourselves to pay more than we have in the bank or our reserves and this is why we are asking for the extra money."

Oxfam has bought 500 tons of grain from Australia for £50,000 and negotiations are going on with the EEC for a further 1,000 tons.

The grain will be used for food-for-work programmes so that families have food while they work on long-term farming projects, or to replace seed eaten by desperate farmers.

Mr Walker said: "It may appear prudent for Oxfam to hold on to cash reserves adequate to protect the thousands of projects we support. But because it is the living of today and the children of tomorrow that concern us, we have decided to throw in all our reserves."

## Polytechnic students plan 'disruption' on grants claim

By Stephen Cohen

of The Times Educational Supplement

Leaders of 90,000 students at Britain's 30 polytechnics voted yesterday to demand grants of £850 a year, and to adopt a policy of "total disruption" if the Government failed to meet the claim by next February.

The decision will be put to the National Union of Students

when it meets in Margate in two weeks' time to decide the size of the grants claim.

The polytechnic students' conference represents a sixth of the Union's total membership. Student grants were raised by a quarter six months ago to £605 a year.

The disruption recommended would affect academic and administrative staff in colleges. A national rent strike was also demanded.

## Factory 'trial' union man gets new post

One of the central figures in the controversial trade union plan to put a factory manager "on trial" at Newtown, Powys, last week is moving to a new union post in South Wales.

Mr John Cooke, Transport and General Workers' Union central Wales officer, based at Newtown, said he was resigning that he has been appointed district secretary for the Cardiff area.

During a strike by 114 men employed by Dowty Seals Ltd, Newtown, Mr Cooke endorsed the strike committee's plan for workers' tribunals at which allegations would be made against the factory manager. The plan was abandoned with the settlement of the strike on Friday.

## High costs stop children from learning to cook

Rising costs were forcing more children to opt out of school cookery lessons, Miss Pat Pickles, president of the Association of Teachers of Domestic Science and deputy headmistress of Burnt Mill Comprehensive School, Harlow, Essex, said yesterday.

Six months ago some teachers were paying £1 a week from their own pockets to enable poor children to take cookery classes, she said. The figure had since doubled.

She suspects that children are playing truant from cookery classes because they wish to avoid the embarrassment of not being able to afford the lessons.

## Unlike Welsh Indians and whisky, Radio Cymru will be one dream come true

By a Staff Reporter

It has always been much harder for Welshmen to realize their dreams than Englishmen. More Englishmen have been born with silver spoons in their mouths than Welshmen who, on the whole, have had to make do with wooden spoons.

Not that Welshmen have less ambition with their dreams. A man nicknamed Bob Hydraulics once worked out a scheme to construct an enormous cantilevered hydraulic moon over Holyhead harbour for the delight of visitors. The scheme, however, did not get off the ground.

Another ambitious dreamer was Madoc who, in the twelfth century sailed off and discovered America. History gives the credit to Columbus and even Welsh historians say it is only a legend.

It was widely believed for centuries and grew in strength when traders and hunters came out of the American wilderness with accounts of meeting Welsh speaking Indians. Morgan Jones, a preacher, reported that in 1669 he and some friends had been captured by Indians in what is now South Carolina. As the Indians were about to kill them all, Jones said in Welsh: "It's curtains for us, boys bach", or words to that effect. Whereupon the Indians, having understood every word, greeted them as cousins and set them free.

Between 1792 and 1797, seven years before the great expedition of Lewis and Clark, a Welsh preacher, John Evans, followed his dream of finding Welsh Indians and explored the valleys of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri. But he heard not a single word of Welsh.

The settlement of Patagonia was another Welsh dream that crumbled around the edges. Welshmen sought refuge from

### Regional report

### Trevor Fishlock Cardiff

poverty and oppression by founding a colony in Patagonia. Today they are part of the Argentine. Spanish is there first language and Welsh is fading as a minority tongue.

Eighty years ago there were hopes for Welsh whisky. A distillery was built near Bala and advertisements said that the stuff "painted landscapes on the brain". To the delight of the temperance movement (whose dream of a sober province had died) the business failed.

In the 1920s when Welshmen first crouched beside their primitive wireless apparatus they began to dream of a separate Welsh wireless service. Letters they wrote to newspapers urging it are remarkably similar to those that there sons and grandsons write today.

Next year the BBC will start making this dream come true. Its Radio 4 service in Wales will be split; Radio Wales will broadcast in English on the medium wave and Radio Cymru will broadcast in Welsh on VHF.

The services will develop gradually over a few years as money becomes available and more transmitters are built to improve the medium-wave service.

In a country where the problems of mountains and language are a constant headache for broadcasters the plan is not approved by everyone. Nevertheless, it is an important step forward.

Meanwhile many Welshmen are dreaming hard about a better television service: that is, a service with good reception on all channels everywhere in Wales and with a fourth channel operating so that there are more Welsh programmes and more children can see speakers who do not want to look at the Welsh programmes.

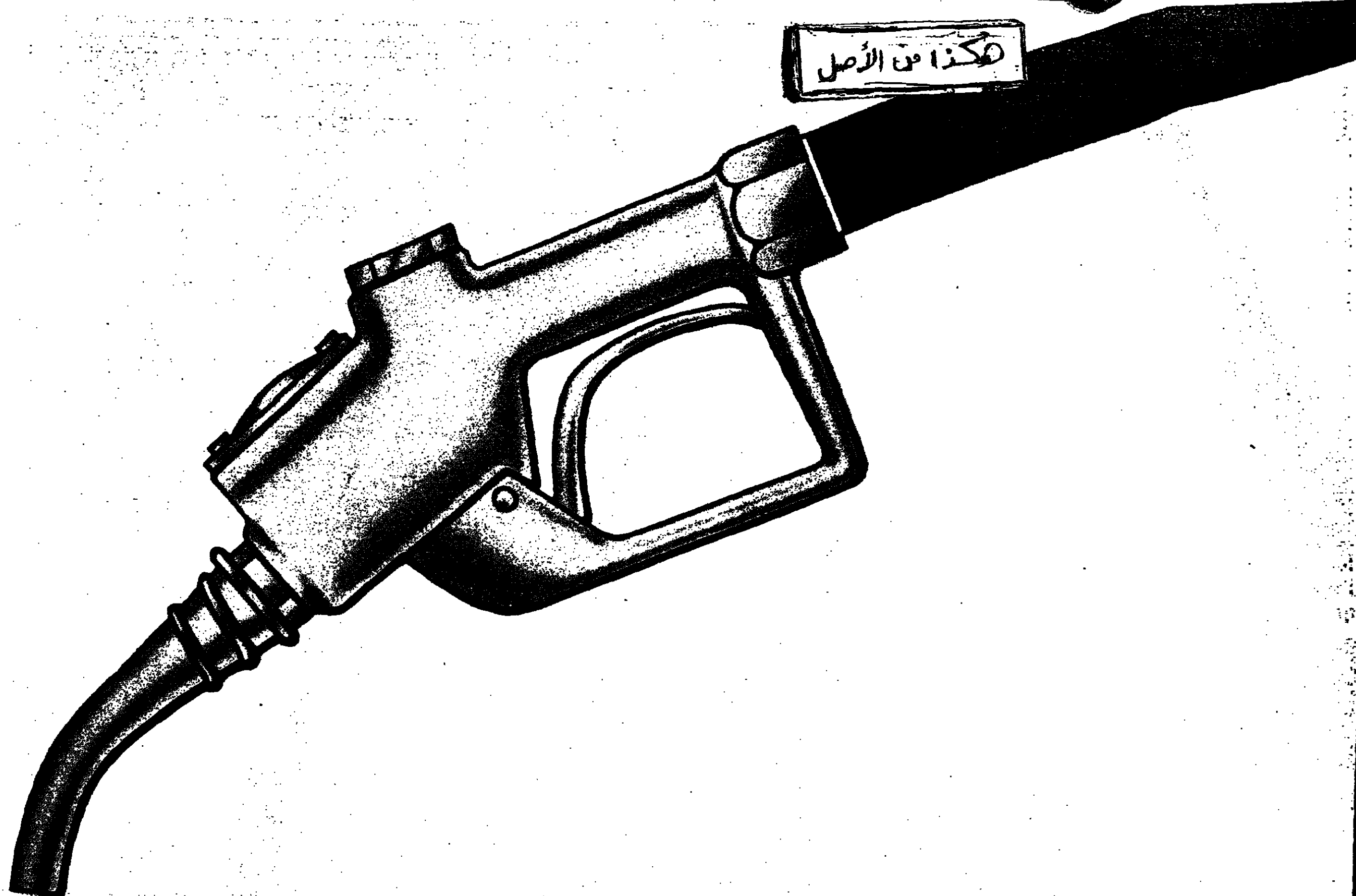
It is a serious issue, because television and radio play a part in the fortunes of Welsh and the next 10 years are reckoned to be crucial for the language. When the crystal-set first started appearing, there were more than 900,000 Welsh speakers; now there are 600,000 and pessimists fear that by the time a satisfactory Welsh television service is provided the entire audience could crowd around one set.

Not all Welsh dreams turn to dust, like whisky. The Welsh Indians and hydraulic moons. After long struggles Wales got for itself its institutions, like the university and national museum.

Keir Hardie, in 1910, urged the appointment of a secretary of state for Wales, and the founding of a Welsh office. A mere 54 years later that dream has become a reality. Some Welshmen were debating the idea of a Welsh parliament 80 years ago. Now it is being taken seriously.

Many years ago a Labour politician said that, given home rule, Wales would be a utopia. A compound Welsh dream would include that, plus endless oil from the Celtic Sea, an end to coal mining, perfect television reception, bilingualism, the writing of the great Welsh novel, the rebirth of the size of Cardiff Arms Park, a Welsh whisky industry and the astonishing discovery, in a lost valley in America, of the Welsh Indians descended from Madoc.





# How to get more out of it, without paying more for it.

Every gallon now costs more, but in terms of what you get out of it, you could find yourself paying less to go further.




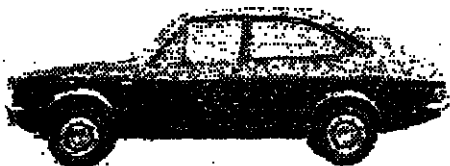
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Since the petrol price rises of last year, the efficiency of the Austin and Morris engines has won our cars quite a reputation, and an increased share of the country's new car owners.

The table below shows you what you can expect from our most popular models.

Make your own comparisons, and we think you'll agree that now, more than ever it's time to buy a new car at your Austin or Morris showroom.

mpg at constant road speed		mpg at 30 mph	mpg at 40 mph	mpg at 50 mph	mpg at 60 mph	mpg at 70 mph
MINI® 1000		61·0	53·5	46·5	39·0	30·5
ALLEGRO 1500		52·0	49·0	44·0	37·5	32·0
MAXI 1750		47·5	45·0	41·0	35·5	30·0
MARINA 1·8		52·0	48·0	41·5	35·0	30·5

Figures by courtesy of Motor. ®Mini is a Registered Trade Mark of British Leyland.



**Austin  
Morris**



## WEST EUROPE

## Mr Peart sets out for Brussels to protect Britain's supplies of sugar, beef, butter and cheese

From David Cross  
Brussels, Nov 17

In his most difficult EEC assignment to date, Mr Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, will this week try to persuade his Community partners to take steps to safeguard future supplies of sugar, beef, butter and cheese in British shops.

His main task during two days of discussions tomorrow and on Tuesday in Brussels will be to secure an agreement among ministers of agriculture of the EEC on the precise terms which the Community will offer developing countries for their exports of 1,400,000 tons of cane sugar a year.

The groundwork for this long-term operation was laid last week when Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, extracted a formal commitment from the Community to guarantee access of up to this figure "on a continuing basis".

The ministers of agriculture will now have to determine a price for the sugar and the exact duration of the new arrangement which is due to come into operation next February to replace the present Commonwealth Sugar Agreement.

At a time when there is a serious world sugar shortage and prices have spiralled to the world market, the price of sugar the developing countries will agree to deliver will depend almost exclusively on the price the Community offers to pay.

Mr Peart is expected to suggest a figure of at least £140 a ton, which is roughly what Britain had to pay to secure final deliveries from Guyana under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. But this suggested figure could well run into opposition from the French, in particular, on the ground that it would be above the price paid to the Community's own sugar beet producers.

There is also likely to be a lengthy wrangle among the ministers over the duration of the proposed new arrangements. Some member countries, like Britain, would prefer a flexible long-term agreement with no final time limit and incorporating provisions for regular consultations and possible modifications.

The French, on the other hand, are unwilling to make arrangements for more than a five-year period, which is the length of the Community's own sugar production programme.

Mr Peart is expected to seek EEC approval for new arrangements to guarantee British farmers a minimum price for their cattle over the difficult winter period.

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Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn speaking at a press conference in Zurich at which he announced the publication of a book of essays by six other Soviet dissidents.

## General Spínola retired under Lisbon rejuvenation

From Jose Sheridiff  
Lisbon, Nov 17

General Antonio de Spínola, Portugal's President from the April 25 revolution until the reported coup attempt of September 28, has now been retired from the army. So have all other generals over 62 years of age.

The new measure taken by the Council of Chiefs of the Armed Forces, and coming into effect immediately, is intended "to rejuvenate the ranks and create new posts". It retires top generals, admirals and rear-admirals at 62, brigadiers and colonels at 57, and so on down the scale.

His retirement deprives General Spínola of the possibility of filling in future any military executive post, such as president of the supreme military tribunal. He was deputy chief of staff until dismissed in Dr Caetano's regime just before the April coup.

## Spanish veterans unite

Madrid, Nov 17.—Veterans of the Spanish Civil War formed a confederation today, apparently as a first step to becoming a political association.

They elected Señor José Antonio Giron, a right-wing former minister of Labour, as president.

About 500 veterans shouting "Long live Franco", applauded Señor Giron.

Political parties are still banned, but Señor Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, has promised to allow political associations before the end of the year.

Observers said that the veterans tried to counterbalance efforts by the left to form political associations. The confederation unites nine groups of veterans, including those of the Blue Division who fought together with the Germans on the Russian front.

Reuter.

## Army begins to clear refuse in Paris streets

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 17

The Army was called in yesterday to begin clearing the mountains of rubbish which had accumulated over the previous three days in the streets of Paris, owing to a strike by dustmen. About 3,000 troops, including some from Germany, began work during the afternoon. They are expected to take five days to clear the accumulated rubbish.

Shopkeepers and concierges gave a friendly welcome to the national servicemen involved. A frequent comment was that they were less efficient than the dustmen but that they did their best.

The Prefect of Paris has called on Parisians to help by refraining from throwing out the streets refuse like bottles and tins, which is not a danger to health, thus reducing the amount for the troops to remove. A quarter of a million plastic bags were distributed at the end of last week.

Householders were asked to sweep the streets of all remaining refuse after collection trucks had passed. "This is an operation of public health", an Army spokesman said.

The dustmen's union said yesterday that the Government had brought in troops to break the strike instead of agreeing to negotiate, on the excuse of a threat to public health. But the experience of strikes in 1970 and 1972 has shown that the Army alone cannot cope with such a collection. The union decided yesterday to continue the strike.

The kidnapers later made contact with the jeweller but it is not known whether any ransom demand has been received.

Nicoletta was the thirty-sixth victim this year alone of kidnapping in Italy.

There are five people still in the hands of kidnapers including Signor Giovanni Stucchi, aged 31, an industrialist kidnaped in October whose family paid a \$50m fine (£33,000) ransom on Friday.

The family of Gianfranco Cioce, the son of a Bari kidnapping magnate, who was kidnapped on Wednesday are still waiting for messages from the kidnapers.

The abduction of Nicoletta di Nardi, the 11-year-old daughter of a Milan jeweller, merchant, armed men rendered her unconscious with a cloth soaked in ether as she walked to school with her sister aged 13 yesterday, and bundled her into a car.

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## Signor Moro expected to throw in his hand

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Nov 17

Fears are now being expressed that the Italian political crisis will worsen this week if Signor Moro, the Prime Minister-designate is forced tomorrow to admit defeat in his efforts at forming a government.

Forty-five days have passed since the last government resigned, and they have been bad days. At a time when the economy as well as the political situation called for a strong hand, the newspapers have been full of criticism about the coup, the former head of the secret service is under arrest on charges of political conspiracy and, as recently as last night, ministries and other important points were under special guard after an anonymous coup warning.

Against this background, the Christian Democrats have called on their two strongest personalities to try to form a government. The party secretary, Senator Fanfani, failed on October 25 after a fortnight of negotiation. Signor Moro then took over the task and he will report tomorrow to his party's national executive. It will be left to his colleagues to judge whether the time has come for him to withdraw from the scene.

The issue is clear. He set out to form a new administration drawing its strength from the four parties of the centre-left, the Christian Democrats, the Socialists, the Social Democrats and the Republicans. But relations are too troubled

among them to bring together in another coalition. Signor Moro then settled for a minority administration of Christian Democrats with the support from outside of the other three. The Republicans agreed and so did the Socialists, but the Social Democrats objected, and the responsibility for Signor Moro's failure—if he does admit defeat—will be on their shoulders.

Theoretically, Signor Moro has a choice before him: to form a government with the backing of three out of the four centre-left parties or give up on the ground that the Social Democrats at all costs.

His real dilemma is that if he should be allowed to go ahead with a government denied Social Democratic support, he will be accused within his own party of having shifted the centre of gravity to the left. The Social Democrats, whatever their name, are now regarded as a right-wing party.

The two big objections to the move are, first, that the Christian Democrats have never in a quarter of a century of government made such a choice; and second, the recent victory of the right-wing Italian Social Movement are taken to mean that there are votes to be won on the right. The party would be turning its back on a possible source of votes.

The likelihood is that Signor Moro will follow Senator Fanfani's example and throw in his hand.

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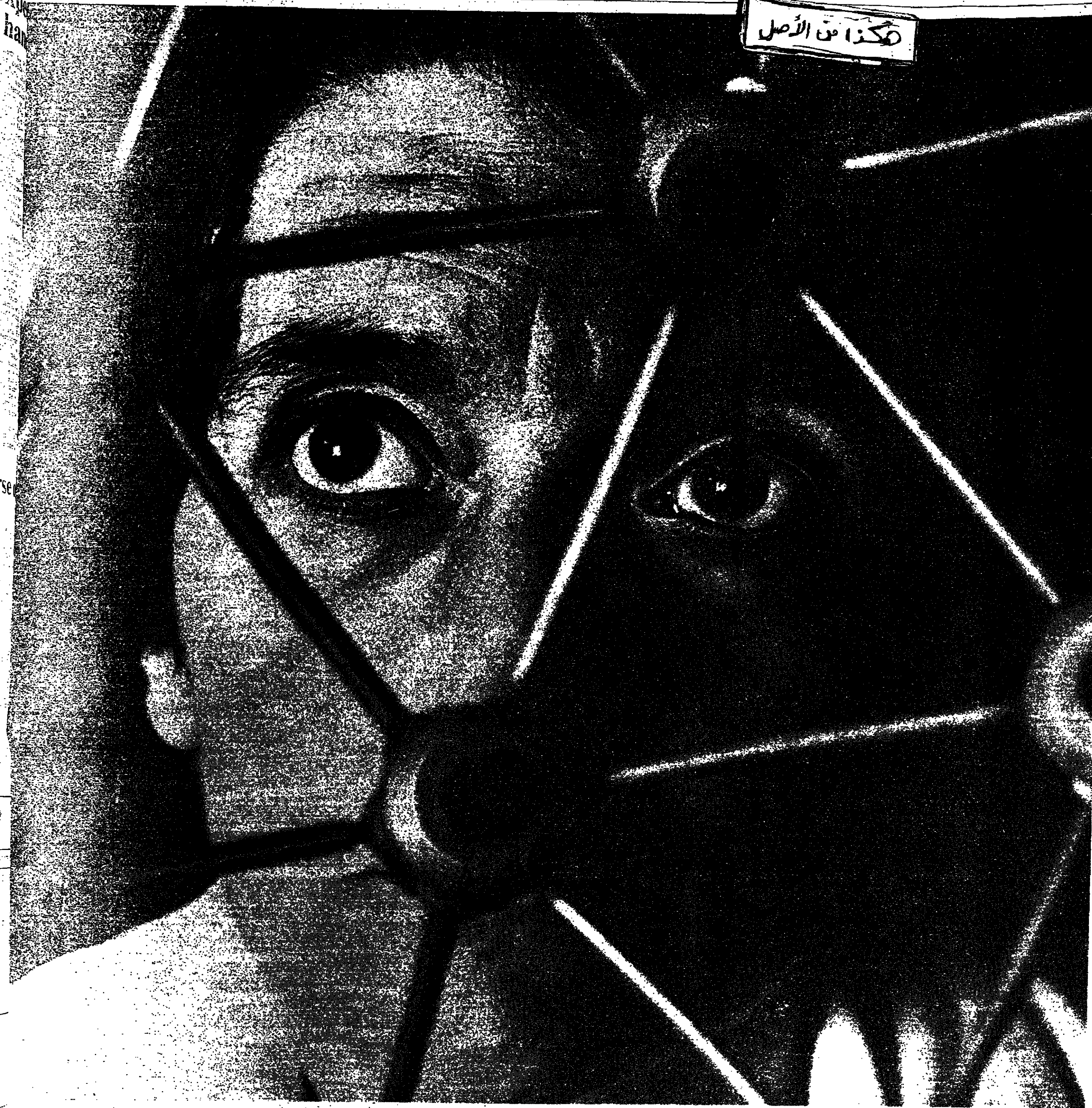
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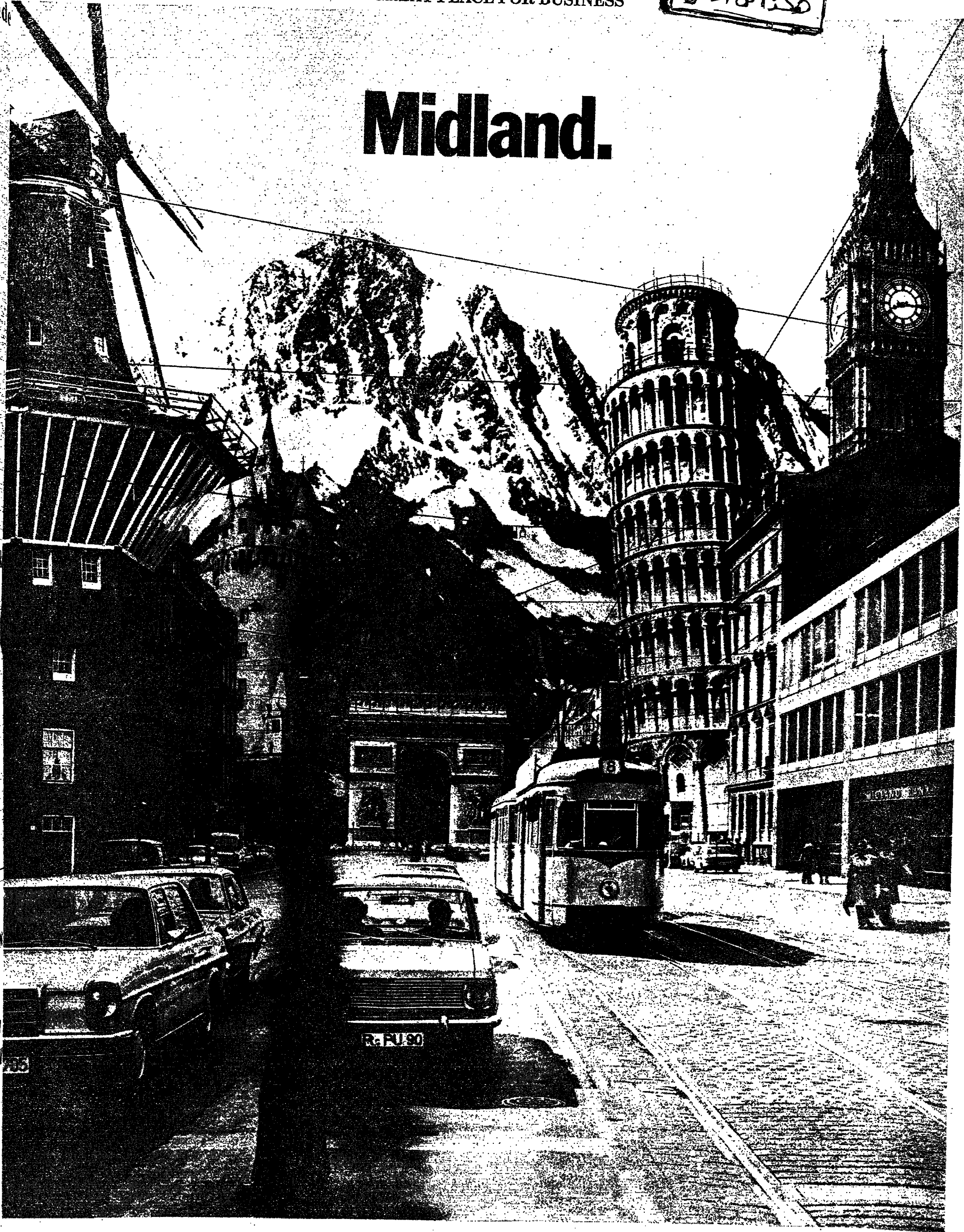




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## OVERSEAS

# Eight African homeland leaders reject Mr Vorster's concept of independent Bantustans

From Michael Knipe  
Cape Town, Nov 17

The gulf between the aspirations of South Africa's white and black political leaders became sharply evident this weekend.

Eight African homeland leaders made it clear that at this stage they reject the concept of independent Bantustans which is a cornerstone of the Government's apartheid policy.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, stated emphatically that one man one vote representation in a single parliament was out of the question. Thus the races continue to be set on a course of bitter confrontation.

The homeland leaders emphasised after a conference that black South Africans were entitled to a joint future with whites in the Republic and a share in the country's riches.

They said in a statement that none of them quarrelled with the decision of the Transkei to seek independence within the framework of the Government's separate development policy.

But, they said: "No other black leader had any intention at this point in time to seek independence for any other territory."

The Transkei, which is divided into only two blocks of land, is the homeland with the greatest hope of viability and its conservative leader, Chief Kaiser Matanzima, has requested independence from South Africa within five years.

The other leaders are not

prepared to accept independence at least until their fragmented territories have been consolidated and provided with a viable economic infrastructure. Even then it is uncertain whether they would agree to independence.

Professor Ntanzwisi, the leader of Gazankulu, a tiny enclave in the Transvaal bordering Mozambique, said yesterday that to do so would be to sell their birthright as South Africans. "We would lose our claims to South Africa's wealth and would be abandoning our claims to an economy that we have helped build up," he said.

Professor Ntanzwisi said the Government's Bantustan concept could not be abandoned at this late stage but the Bantustans should form an integral part of South Africa.

The black political leaders expressed favour for a federal solution to the republic's race problem "within a single economically indivisible country".

The Prime Minister, in a speech to supporters yesterday said blacks would have majority rule in their homelands "but the whites will rule South Africa".

In a message to the homeland leaders he said: "If there are any of you who nourish the hope of one man one vote in the white Parliament then you are being misled because it will not happen."

Mr Vorster contended that his party's policy was one of differentiation, not discrimination. It intended to remove dis-

crimination if it existed. However, under no circumstances could political power leave the hands of "our people". When power was shared it could not be regained.

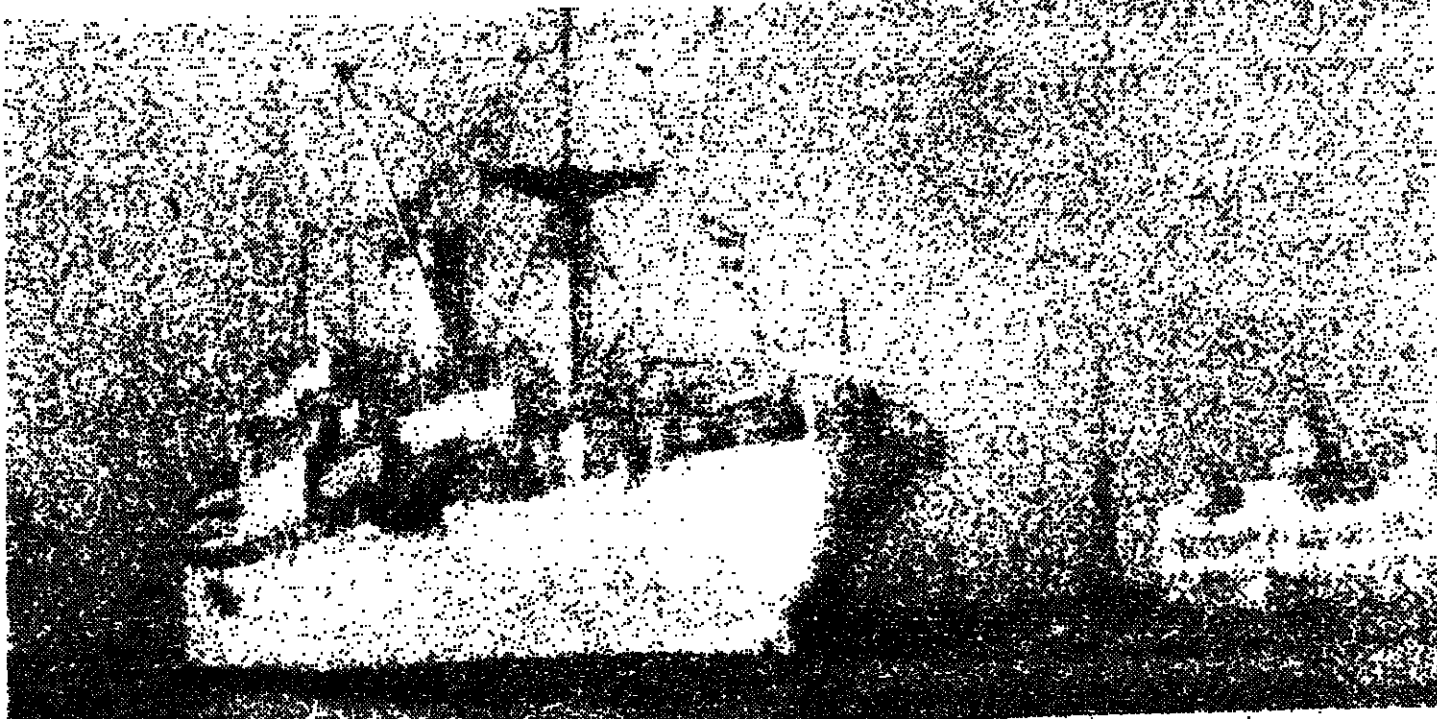
The Prime Minister reiterated his promise of a startling change in South Africa's political situation in six months time but denied that this implied changes in the government's apartheid policies. Any internal changes would be within the framework of separate development, he said.

At their meeting, the black political leaders endorsed the moves towards detente in Southern Africa made by Mr Vorster and President Kaunda of Zambia.

Mr Donald Easum, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, who is visiting South Africa during a fact-finding mission to the continent said at a press conference yesterday that he was "cautiously optimistic" about the possibility of change in the Republic.

## Islands to vote on independence

Moroni, Nov 17.—Mr Ahmed Abdallah, the Premier of the Comoro Archipelago, today returned to Moroni from Paris where he has been engaged in arrangements for a referendum on independence in the Indian Ocean archipelago next month.



The first ship to use the Suez Canal commercially since 1967 passing Port Said on Saturday. It was leading three other Egyptian ships to Suez, where they are to pick up pilgrims bound for Mecca.

## Egypt warns superpowers of war dangers

From Our Correspondent  
Cairo, Nov 17

President Sadat has carried out urgent consultations with his senior political and military staff during the past 24 hours against the background of mounting tension in the Middle East.

The flurry of political, military and diplomatic activities here was prompted by reports of Israel and Syrian military build-ups.

Mr Sadat yesterday presided over a meeting attended by Field-Marshal Ahmed Ismail,

the War Minister, Mr Mamdouh Salem, the Interior Minister, Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Foreign Minister, and the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Mohammad Abdul Ghani Gamasi.

After the meeting Mr Fahmi summoned the American and Soviet ambassadors separately to convey urgent messages from President Sadat to President Ford and Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader.

In this Mr Sadat warned the leaders of the two superpowers of the serious consequences of Israel's call-up of reserves and

movements of forces. Egypt has said it will not stand idly by if Israel attacks Syria.

Field-Marshal Ismail, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian and Syrian fronts, conferred yesterday with the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo, Mr Vladimir Polyakov.

The question of Soviet weapons supplies to this country is expected to be an important topic in the talks between Mr Sadat and Mr Brezhnev when the Soviet leader visits Cairo in January.

The atmosphere in Egypt was

normal today with thousands attending football matches in Cairo, Ismailia and other towns. But Cairo newspapers today gave warnings of the possibility of an Israeli attack.

Al Gomhouria said: "Israel waging a new war is not a remote probability. On the contrary, it is a possibility. It is not important to know whether Israel will start a new war or not but it is more important that she will not take us by surprise or wrest the initiative from us."

On Friday, while the Israeli mobilization was in process, Rabin, the Prime Minister, said that more than 20 Soviet supply ships were unloading arms for Syria in Latakia.

Nervousness among Israeli civilians had been heightening by the military censoring, had been obvious that reser-

ves were being called up on 1 day but the media in Israel and abroad were prevented from reporting it except quoting foreign sources.

Life in settlements and villages on the Golan Heights seemed normal this week. All roads were open and it was tourist traffic all the way to the United Nations position. Army traffic was not particularly heavy, but buses mobilized reservists and ammunition convoys were.

The easing of tension was relative. Responsible Israeli maintained that the situation could remain dangerous. The Syrians decided to go to the mandate of the United Nations observer force.

force occupies a zone separating the Israeli and Syrian armies. Syria's limited zones on the sides of the disengagement line were not touched today.

Syria's failure to renew the date would mean war. Syrians were demanding full Israeli withdrawals on the Heights as a condition for extension. It was believed they would drag out the negotiations and then probably the mandate for a short time.

General Chaim Herzog, military commentator, said key lay with the Soviet Union. The flow of Soviet arms to Israel and Iraq was part of a plan to keep the area simmering and also related to Soviet in the Persian Gulf.

Ferment among Arabs occupied areas, which has been developing since the appeal of Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at the United Nations. Mr Arafat went to the west bank.

In Jenin a girl was yesterday by a blow on the head during a stone-throwing demonstration by schoolchildren was dispersed by Israeli soldiers.

The military governor ordered a school in Jenin another in Hebron to be until the end of the school in June because of the Tel Aviv, Nov 17.—S

Edward Kennedy today continuing United support for Israel, saying America would not be by the Arab oil weapon. A ceremony of a new science school at Ben-David University at Beer-Sheva.

Reuter.

## World recession spectre affects Canton fair

From David Bonavia  
Peking, Nov 17

The possibility of a world recession, and perhaps a shortage of funds on the Chinese side, have meant that the autumn trade fair which has just closed in Canton was one of the most depressed for a number of years.

Chinese official media have described the fair as a great success but Western officials and businessmen generally paint a picture of slack trading and falling attendances. One businessman went so far as to describe the fair as the most disappointing one "since the Cultural Revolution".

China's buying spree of the past two years or so, the country is caught in a financial scissors because of the high world price of wheat, which it imports, and the relatively low price this year of rice, which it exports.

Chinese officials show keen interest in recent economic problems of the developed world, which pose serious questions about future trading relations. While proclaiming a crisis of capitalism as a cation of Marxist ideas, Chinese commentators also that it has affected the power of those trading China.

By contrast with China genuinely seems to have no internal inflation except the small sector of the economy which deals with foreign currency. Imported goods are less abroad and rely on the labour and inventiveness of their own people, even means slowing down the country's economic development.

The national currency is not traded internationally still valued quite real and is therefore not subject to black market pressures in rouble and other current Eastern Europe.

Chou operation said to be for stomach cancer

Peking, Nov 17.—Mr Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, was operated on about 10 weeks ago for cancer of the stomach, according to reliable sources here. He is 76 and has been ill for six months.

His doctors are not yet able to say what have been the results of the operation or of the cobalt radiation treatment which he is now undergoing. It seems, however, that he is recovering satisfactorily.

When he received foreign visitors in hospital—as was the case five times in the last six weeks—Mr Chou was not in bed, walked normally and spoke with his usual wit.—Agence France-Presse.

## 'Don't call us Pommies' plea by Briton

Sydney, Nov 17.—Mr Stewart, an English immigrant, said here today he hoped to get a Royal Commission to call Britons "Pommies".

Mr Stewart, who only here 10 years ago from St. Louis, told reporters he needed to put his complaint to the Royal Commission on the Relations, which began in Sydney recently.

He said many Aussies used the term without realizing it had become abusive and offensive. It got on his nerves and might even lead the MCC cricket team to Australia.—Reuter.

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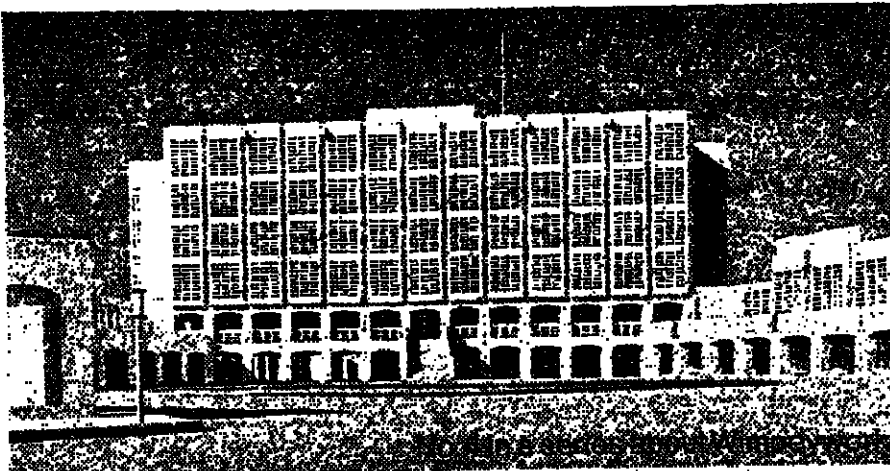
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## Newham: Threats to the whole fabric of the educational system

More than 90 per cent of our children go to state schools. But the future of these schools is threatened by shortages of teachers, buildings and equipment, by truancy and violence. In the first of an occasional series on how education authorities are coping with the schools crisis, our Education Correspondent, Tim Devlin, reports on one of the worst hit areas, Newham.

Education breaks down any-where it will break down first in the London borough of Newham, the constituency home of the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr. Kenneth Robinson. It has just come top of a list of authorities to benefit from a national £10.8m hand-out to help schools in exceptional difficulty. Sixty of its 120 schools were on the list and 57 per cent of the 120,000 pupils are in the 120 schools. The borough's 2,000 teachers are on pay rates of between £200 and £275 a year.

Mr. Morgan, a 28-year-old teacher, who often works a 12-hour day, personifies the tragedy of a borough which has an appalling record for providing an education service in the difficult social conditions of London's East End.

Two years ago he was invited to the first school-visit by a teacher. He runs a special class to which very disabled and difficult children are referred at two primary schools in one of the worst areas of the borough. He spends two mornings and evenings a week visiting the families of these children and families of children who persistently play truant from school. He drives in from Leyton every morning and then does not get back until late at night.

On truanting he said: "Very few of the children I visit dislike school. I often find that the child just has not the will-power to wake up in the morning. There are families of eight, nine, 10 children living in terrible conditions, others in prison, broken homes, run-down, damp, rat-infested, criss-crossed houses. There are many cases where a child just hasn't got any shoes. I keep a supply of shoes, coats and anoraks. One did not turn up at school for four days and then turned up in his mother's boots."

Newham needs a teacher like him at most of its 90 primary schools. He is the only one and he is leaving for an administrative post at the end of term. The borough could find plenty of teachers in its own schools good enough to take his place but cannot afford to take them away from the classroom.

Nearly 30 primary school teachers handed in their resignations at half-term. It is now inevitable that only 40 of the 90 schools are covered by the units

start "part-time" schooling (sending children home for some lessons every week) next term because it will not attract replacements for all of them.

The position at secondary schools, where the population is rising and will continue to do so until 1979, is much worse. Seven of the 16 comprehensives are on part-time. More than a third of the borough's 18,500 secondary children are missing at least two lessons a week officially. Nearly 1,500 of them are losing as much as one day a week.

Plashey girls' school is one of three comprehensives which are being particularly crippled. It has 16 teachers short out of a staff quota of 77. At one time the school was advertising for six heads of department, posts regarded as lucrative outside London.

The staff sent an unsigned letter to *The Times* three weeks after the autumn term started. Part of it was as follows: "We feel that we may as well give up in view of the problems that face us. Fifth formers due to take exams in June taught for only four days; lessons being shared with the form below; A-level courses discontinued after one year because of the staff shortage; certain subjects that can't be taken; people leaving school illiterate or semi-literate because there are not enough remedial staff to help them."

And while thousands of children are being sent home, 100 more are waiting for secondary school places.

The teacher shortage is frustrating the very great efforts being made to reduce illiteracy and truancy. The borough estimates that between 15 and 20 per cent of the children enter each stage of schooling as backward readers. One head of a remedial department estimates that 20 per cent of newcomers to his secondary school had a reading age of less than nine, many of them had reading ages of less than seven. Another, who is head of department of remedial teachers at his secondary school, said that more than half the new entrants had less than the normal reading age. At least 50 children over the age of 14 had a reading age of less than eight, he said.

Special reading units are based at a number of primary schools but only 40 of the 90 schools are covered by the units

or by a peripatetic teacher. This is because of the shortage of teachers and particularly the shortage of married women teachers in a solidly working class area. Many of Newham's teachers attend in-service training sessions in teaching-reading at the borough's teachers' centre.

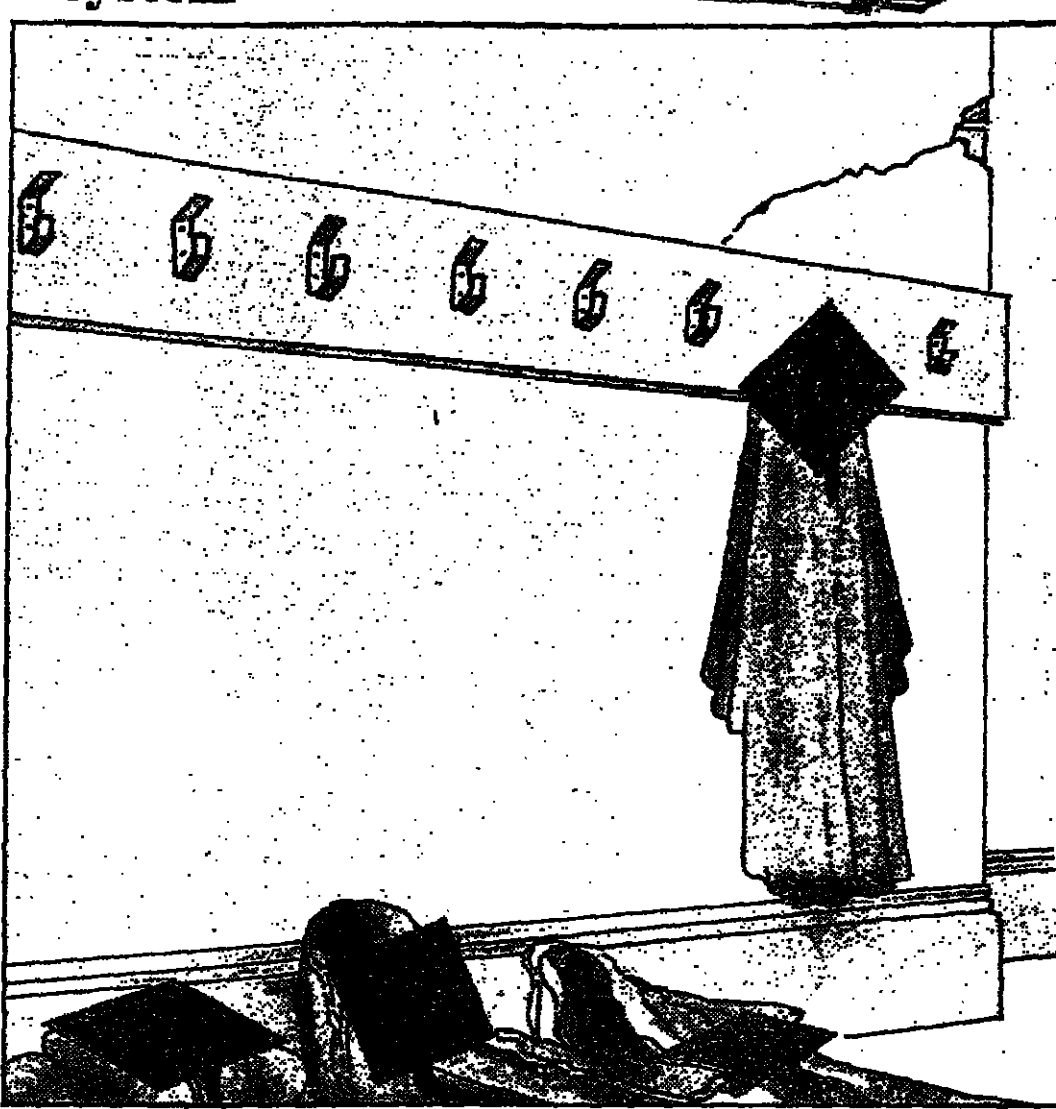
None of a group of seven-year-olds at an infants school in Canning Town knew the word for "switch". The school (Star School) is a model for anyone who wants to turn the ground floor of a grand Victorian three-decker school into a bright cheerful place in an area of demolition and redevelopment. Miss Betty Bull, the headmistress, has also organized a play-group; an afternoon club for mothers; introductory lessons on the new maths for parents; and twice-weekly classes for mothers to learn English.

But her school has an average attendance of 82 per cent. She said: "People often think of truancy as a problem for 15-year-olds. But we have a small core of truants, maybe about 10 per cent. But if you multiply 10 per cent over every primary school you get a backlog of illiterates and truanters for the secondary school. They fall behind from the infants school onwards. They have no essential contact with the school. They do not know the games we play, the songs we sing. They do not make any friends. I do not know what I can do for them."

According to the education inspector, average attendance rate in the borough's schools is about 85 per cent—an estimated truancy rate of five or six per cent. Headteachers are very concerned about truancy and in the last year have organized remedial classes on attendance in the morning and afternoon. Eastlea secondary school has increased its attendance from a nadir of 64 per cent during one term last year to 81 per cent this term.

But encouragement to stay away from school is increased by official part-time schooling. At Cumberland comprehensive, one of the schools worst affected, attendance among the first two years, usually the keenest pupils, has this term been running at 82.5 and 78.4 per cent respectively.

Despite all the difficulties, the secondary schools which are still going, are building up



sixth forms among former secondary modern children who would almost certainly have left school at 16. Mr. Desmond Taaffe has built up a sixth form of 40 at his school—Eastlea. He has also started a modern languages department which now offers a choice of two languages to third year pupils. The sixth form applied for and received a beginners' course in French.

But the school is on two sites. It has eight forms in huts built in 1947, and the life expectancy of which expired 10 years ago. There is no separate sixth form block.

During a three-day visit to the borough I found that morale among most teachers was high. "It is not as bad as all that," they kept saying. One of them, Mr. Preston Thomas, said: "Teachers here are sick of being told how dreadful it is. It isn't. Teaching here is very rewarding. What we need is a boost to morale."

Dr. Scott Wilkie, director of education, said: "Newham is often criticized as a borough and we are in no way complacent. We realize our difficulties. But people who have never bothered to come and see us do not appreciate what we are doing."

The borough has a good reputation for special schools for the handicapped; it has a higher proportion of children getting nursery education than any other London borough. It excels in sports centres and adventure playgrounds. It was the first London borough to have an academy of music and has exceptional provision for drama and art.

But all its achievements are being threatened. Mr. Keith Hasler, chairman of the education committee, said: "I am very worried about how long we can maintain the service with a serious staffing shortage. Try as we can, we find very

little in the way of local alleviation."

The Government has included Newham in the top tier for the London weighting allowances. But the disadvantage of this and other allowances is that a greater part of the increase has to be borne by the local authority.

Mr. David Hopkins, director of finance, thinks that Government help will be needed for Newham. The rateable value is about the same as Harrow. But he cannot impose too much of a burden on the domestic rate. And as industry is tending to move out, he has to handle the commercial rate very carefully.

Newham is slowly going bankrupt and rapidly losing its best workers. Many people wonder who or what can bail Newham out. Mr. Prentice told a teachers' meeting recently that he could wave no magic wand. Nor is a fairy godmother likely to step out of the skies.

## Scepticism flavours the sugar word-war

The sugar refiners, Tate & Lyle, in a message to Mr. Peart, Minister of Agriculture, before he left to discuss sugar in Brussels, said that the EEC would have to offer its best growers double the increase contemplated, to avoid a cut in internal production.

Mr. Michael Atfield, the company's sugar buying director, said the company believed that the Community was thinking of raising the price to growers by 10 per cent next year. Tate & Lyle believed that it would have to offer an extra fifth to prevent a reduction in beet acreage.

For the past four weeks the cane refining industry in Britain has abandoned its usual shy and retiring attitude and has held briefings and press conferences at which leading experts have debated to explain the complexity of their markets.

The Ministry of Agriculture, too, seems by the forecasts of shortages made by the refiners has summoned its own specialists from their enclaves in Whitehall to present alternative explanations.

Mr. Saxon Tate, chairman of the executive committee of Tate & Lyle, said briefly at one briefing: "Unless Peart introduces really attractive terms, the Commonwealth countries may hoist a red flag. The better Peart does the more chances we have of getting the shops not going up any more."

He was referring to the famous 1,400,000 tons of Commonwealth sugar which the EEC is to allow into the Community, but which he fears that if the Community does

### Agriculture

#### Hugh Clayton

not raise its latest offer of £126 a ton then more than a third of that sugar, the part due from the West Indies, may be sold elsewhere.

It was a diversion of supplies from the West Indies to the United States early this year that led to the shortage of retail sugar from which Britain is still suffering.

To scepticism about the prospects of securing the 1,400,000 tons Tate & Lyle adds its own amused disbelief at the Community's plans to make up its shortage by buying on the world market, where prices are more than four times as high as in the EEC.

This is the part of the Tate campaign that irritates the ministry most, particularly because the many misquoted an EEC directive in a way that made the Community's commitment to secure adequate sugar look more feeble than it really is.

The Council of Ministers referred at their October meeting to the preliminary offer of 200,000 tons of free market sugar to be subsidized by the Community. The Tate version of the statement of the Council of Ministers con-

pointed out that in the official English translation of the ministers' statement they did not use the tentative "any further steps" cited by Tate, but an emphatic "no further steps". This made it clear that the Community was determined to continue to make up its shortfall after the 200,000 "excess tons" had been bought.

A further pressing concern of the cane refiners is to secure quotas on cane similar to those imposed on beet factories. The talks about the 1,400,000 tons, based at first on a contract with a five-year review, must cover quotas as well as prices, the refiners say.

Refining is a capital-intensive industry and would not for long stand the strain of an auction of cane sugar throughout the EEC which would make it impossible for refiners to predict the availability of their raw material.

Meanwhile the fateful February date on which Tate & Lyle predict that they may have no sugar left is only 11 weeks away.

The British Sugar Corporation has been a wise and conspicuous absentee from the recent bargaining between the cane refiners and the Government. The corporation still hopes for 650,000 tons of white sugar from the beet crop, because although beet weight is generally lower than usual, sugar content of supplies to some factories is unusually high.

The industry is moving out of beet, the corporation is maintaining a front of reticence and solid optimism until the closing date for return of contracts by growers on December 2.

### University news

Appointments: C. J. Frayling to be lecturer in history, school of humanities and social sciences; R. I. Williams to be lecturer in pharmacology, school of pharmacy; St. Andrews: Professor J. J. Dwyer, M.A., O.B.E., professor of law, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, has been awarded the degree of D.Sc. by Oxford University.

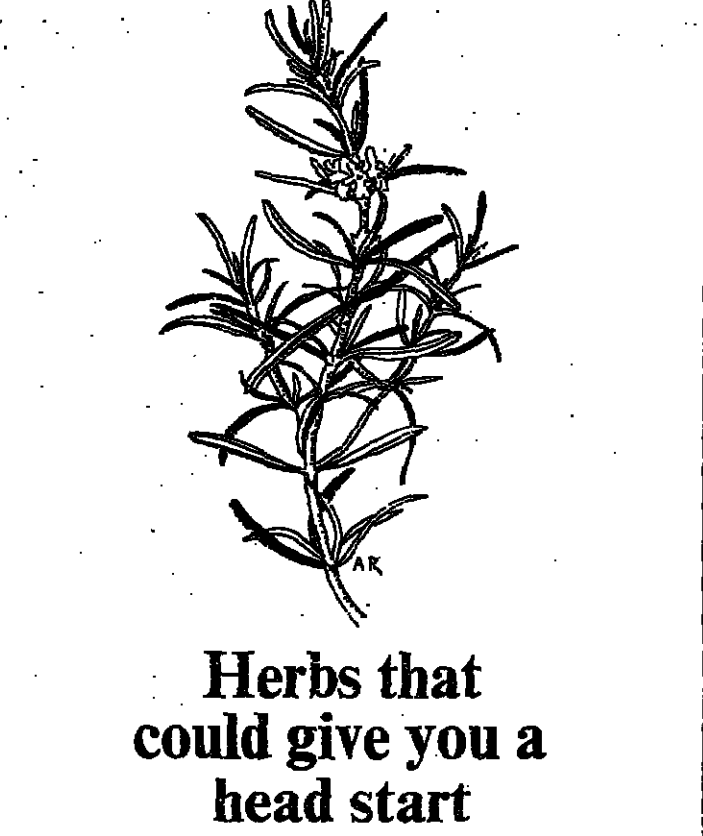
Edinburgh: The Agricultural Research Council has awarded a grant of £2,000 to Professor A. D. Bawa for research into the effect of low oxygen concentrations on the regulation of the lipid and carbohydrate metabolism of *Aspidosiphon*.

Edinburgh: S. W. J. Cameron, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., lecturer in anatomy, and M. J. Burkhana, B.Sc., M.Arch., lecturer in architecture, have been awarded the degree of D.Sc. by Oxford University.

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Herbs that could give you a head start

Various herbs have been included in recipes for hair washing waters. Leaves from St John's Wort, or an infusion of rosemary made by pouring a pint of boiling water on to a handful of green branch-tips was said to "stimulate the hair bulbs" and certainly makes a refreshing, fragrant rinse.

Rosemary was once the chief ingredient of Hungary Water, a fore-runner of eau de cologne, and a favourite toilet water in Europe for at least a couple of centuries. I do not know whether it was the dark leaves or the blue flowers that were used, but charcoal made from rosemary wood helped to keep the colour in dark hair. A strong boiling of red sage leaves was said to provide a "better tint" and was apparently one of the ways of disguising the first grey hairs, as well as being used to add full-bodied colour to red wine.

There were plenty of plants to provide methods of "deepening the colour of fayre hair". Marigold petals could add gold to those who were, according to Turner, the father of English botany, "aor beying content with the natural colour which God has given them", and chamomile flowers, too, were frequently added to washing waters to "make the fairer".

Mint leaves, yarrow or milfoil, scarlet pimpernel plants, hops (especially for dandruff), quince seeds, maidenhair fern (which was simmered by itself) to use as a lotion to keep hair sleek, box wood and young willow twigs were all ingredients mentioned in old recipes for "strengthening the growth of new hair".

The willow twigs are particularly interesting because many members of the Salix family have the ability to throw out

somewhat hair-like roots from their twigs if they are damp enough. Pussy willow and others do this even when cut and brought indoors and possibly this association, that they were good for "growing ye hairs" started very early.

The theory of the Doctrine of Signatures was at its height in the Middle Ages. It was thought then, and for some time afterwards, that the useful plants exhibited some outward and visible signs of their virtues. Herbs for the heart, as one example, it was considered, had heart-shaped leaves, and some herbs for helping hair growth showed a mass of fast-growing roots which resembled hair.

If the hair was falling fast, it seems, the influence of the willow needed extra stimulation or time. One idea suggested that "withy leaves" should be seethed in oil before being laid "all over the head". An even earlier recipe "to breed hair" included skin-blistering chopped raw onion as an addition to "sallow leaves to annoy ye whole head".

There were various seventeenth-century concoctions that did without willow. They exalted the virtues of southernwood, or Old Man, or Boys' Love, a herb which had a great reputation for promoting a boy's first beard. In the instructions for one method for certain encouragement of hair growth, the southernwood had to be burnt to ashes, then mixed with some mustard flowers into common oil. This was mild in comparison with an "infallible way" of growing fresh young hair and helping the old to stay in, which needed "a strong paste made from cow-dung and old soles of shoes burnt to powder, with a little rosemary" and "mixed drench with honey and worn under a leather cap for a few days".

Alison Ross

### European Law Report

Week ended 15 November, 1974

## What information must be in trade registers

Re Friedrich Haaga, GmbH, Stuttgart (referred for preliminary decision by the German Federal Court of Justice (Bundesgerichtshof)) Before the President, Judge R. Leccort, and Judges C. O'Daigh, A. Donner, R. Monner, J. Mertens de Wilmars, P. Pescatore, R. Kutschera, Advocate-General M. H. Mayras.

Facts: This was a case referred to the European Court by the German Federal Court of Justice for the interpretation of a Council directive of March 9, 1968.

The case represented a new departure inasmuch as it had not originated as a dispute between litigants before a national court, but as an appeal to the German Federal Court against an administrative order of a German lower court to comply with a Community directive. This was, however, a case within the jurisdiction granted by Article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

The Council of Ministers of the European Community had enacted, on March 9, 1968, a directive pursuant to Article 54 (3) (g) of the EEC Treaty. This article provided that the Council "... shall ... coordinate the necessary extent the safeguards which, for the protection of the interests of members and others, are required by member states of companies or firms ... with a view to making such safeguards equivalent throughout the Community."

This first directive by the Council of the Community was of limited scope, and dealt with three points only. The reference was concerned with Article 2 (obligations entered into by the company) which provided that member states shall enact appropriate measures to ensure that compulsory entries in trade registers should include information regarding the appointment of, and the personal data relating to all persons empowered, collectively or individually, to represent the company in courts and otherwise.

German legislation had been appropriately amended in September, 1969. In August, 1971, the court officer (rechtspleger) in charge of trade registers at the Amtsgericht Stuttgart ordered the firm Haaga to comply with the new text by October 1, 1971. In particular, Haaga was ordered to state, in case only one director was appointed, that he was the sole agent representing the company within the meaning of the new text. On September 25, 1971, Haaga contested this order, arguing that further notification was not necessary since previous notifications had stated quite clearly that, whenever the company had only one director he was empowered to represent the company.

The Amtsgericht sent the case up to the first appeals court, the Landgericht Stuttgart, which again rejected Haaga's

argument. On further appeal to the Oberlandesgericht Stuttgart, the latter held that the appeal was not founded. However, since another Oberlandesgericht, in Frankfurt-am-Main had, in a similar case, given judgment to the contrary, the Stuttgart court decided to refer the case to the Federal Court of Justice.

The German Federal Court of Justice had held that interpretation by the European Court of March 9, 1968, was necessary in order to ensure that German national law, which had been enacted pursuant to this directive, was applied by German courts in conformity with Community law.

Judgment

According to the rules governing legal language, expressions such as "those empowered to represent, or to act for the company" should be understood to have a general rather than a special meaning. The grammatical plural covers not only cases in which several persons are empowered to act for the company, but applies as well to cases where such power to act is devolved upon a single person. The clause under reference thus makes it incumbent on companies which entrust the power to act on their behalf to one single person, explicitly to

### Court of Justice of the European Communities

## What information must be in trade registers

state the power of this person to act.

Such an interpretation corresponds to the aims and purposes of the directive, which are to safeguard the rule of legal security in the relations between companies and third persons with a view to fostering trade between Community member states. To reach this aim it is important that anyone wishing to initiate or to continue business relations with companies in other member states may easily secure essential information regarding the establishment of such companies and the powers of persons representing them.

It cannot be expected of him to possess complete knowledge of legal rules in force, or of business practices current, in other member states. Therefore, all relevant data must be expressly contained in registers or other official documents notwithstanding the fact that such data might in part be contained in, or derive from, national law rules.

It appears, therefore, necessary to insist that trade registers contain, for the information of third persons, relevant data regarding the powers of representation of directors of limited liability companies even though it might be possible to deduce what those powers are by logical thought or by scrutiny of national law.

## Why not equality for disabled women?

Mrs Barbara Castle should not be surprised if her image as a champion of sexual equality is becoming tarnished. In the eight months since she became Secretary of State for Social Services, she has proposed two new social security measures that will discriminate against women for no better reason than that she does not consider a woman to be the "normal" breadwinner in a family.

The two measures are part of the package of new disability benefits, which has been greeted with widespread dismay for falling far short of the comprehensive proposals confidently expected from a Labour Government. That the new benefits also extend the discrimination against women in social security, in spite of the promise in the Labour manifesto to legislate against it, has been condemned as "utterly ridiculous" by Mrs Betty Veal, chairman of the Disabled Income Group.

Under the proposals, disabled people of working age will become entitled to a non-contributory invalidity pension of £5.90 a week from next April. The benefit will not be available to married women because they would not normally be the family breadwinner.

One of the absurdities of that rule will be that a girl who qualifies for the benefit on finishing formal schooling will lose it when she marries. It could be seen as an incentive to cohabit rather than marry, but even that will not help because the benefit will be withdrawn for cohabitation.

The spectre of special investigations prying into the sex lives of women in wheelchairs will be seen in many quarters to be even more distasteful than the practice used against widows, separated and divorced wives or unmarried mothers. Or could it be that Mrs Castle's advisers do not believe that disabled

women should fall in love or marry?

The same rules apply to the second benefit, the invalidity care allowance, which will be available to working age people who give up their jobs to care for a disabled relative. The benefit will be available to a husband forced to give up his job to look after his wife, but not to a wife who stops work to care for her husband.

Thus, a wife who has been the breadwinner for the family because her husband is sick or disabled will be entitled to nothing but supplementary benefits when she finally has to stop work. And then she will find that, because women are not the breadwinners in social security terms, her husband will have to apply on the family's behalf.

So, both disabled husband and non-disabled wife who care for their disabled husbands at home are excluded from any help. It is true that ways of helping the disabled housewife are being examined, but many disabled women fall to see why they should qualify by marital status rather than their disability. The extension of the cohabitation rule to disabled women, at a time when the whole ethos of cohabitation rules is under review by the Government and under attack by pressure groups and MPs, will be widely resented.

Mrs Castle has the Equal Pay Act to her credit and intends to abolish some of the discrimination against women in retirement through her long-term pensions plan. It is a pity that she could not extend the same principles to disabled women and the wives of disabled men, particularly when Mr Roy Jenkins's sex discrimination Bill will not cover social security.

Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

## Difficulties of finding work for the part-timer

While every other secretarial agency in London has about eight times as many permanent jobs as applicants for them, one agency has 500 willing workers, and is having trouble placing them. The difference is that this is an agency handling part-time staff, and that employers are still extremely wary about taking on part-timers.

Part Time Careers was launched at the end of January as a subsidiary of Executive Secretaries Limited, under the directorship of Mrs Kay Sykes, ex-personnel officer at London Weekend Television. Any doubts that Mrs Sykes or her backers may have had about the availability of part-time workers has been dispelled by a recent survey they commissioned.

It showed that there are more than two million unemployed women who would like a job, and that most of these are interested only in part-time work. Mrs Sykes's bunch needed little confirmation: a word of mouth alone brought a rush of applicants to the agency within the first couple of months.

Part-time workers are not, the agency is quick to point out, temporary workers. On the contrary, they are people who positively welcome the sort of stability that a permanent job can give them, and either because they have children, or because they are doing something else with part of their time, cannot fit in full-time work. Working hours and patterns vary enormously from person to person. Some women prefer to work half days. The most popular choice is apparently two to three half days each week. Others prefer to work two full days, others alternate weeks.

However, Part Time Careers have still only succeeded in

placing 15 per cent of their applicants, secretaries, research assistants, librarians, translators, all fully qualified and tested. Not surprisingly they are having most difficulty finding work for graduates and non-secretaries, though they are at pains to make it easy for firms to take on part-timers, by suggesting arrangements like taking on pairs of people to complete one another, or urging firms to employ one part-time worker who could fill in when ever needed instead of depending on the vagaries of the temporary market. "It is all a question of educating employers," Mrs Sykes says.

Quite apart from the fact that employers cannot find permanent secretaries, and that the shortage of them is growing, the current financial situation is also lending weight to Mrs Sykes's arguments. Even though most employers do pay slightly better than pro rata wages to part-timers, when they have them, they are, of course, cheaper than full-time workers. And few people now doubt that secretaries spend a certain amount of time underwork. An Alfred Marks survey in April showed that 9 per cent of secretaries believe that this does not have enough to do.

Mrs Sykes's problem is not to find employers willing to give the scheme a go. Her greatest successes so far have been with trade associations and charitable trusts (and particularly with firms needing accountants and bookkeepers and she is just embarking on an assault on industry. But she succeeds and the id catches on, part-time office workers still have a battle of their own to fight. As the standards now people who work fewer than 21 hours each week are unprotected against dismissal or redundancy, a not entitled to minimum notice and often receive neither holiday pay nor pensions.

Caroline Moorehead

## 'I can't face my future'

"I'm hungry, I live in a slum and have little chance of growing up to enjoy a decent life. Please help me!"

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هكذا من الأصل



## A Volvo never had looks like this before.

No, sir.  
In days gone by the ladies wouldn't give us a look in that Volvos were not for them.  
Somehow or other, they'd got it into their heads 'A man's car,' feminists muttered.  
'Big and safe and reliable and hard-wearing. Nobody looks at you in a Volvo'.  
While this view wasn't quite fair, there was enough truth in it to sting us into action.  
We present one of the results of our labours.  
The new Volvo 244. Part of our first new series of cars for nearly nine years.  
An event in itself.  
And, we think, a turning point in our rather long, unsuccessful suit with women.  
For a start, you'll undoubtedly get winked at in a 244.  
The only problem may be that the young man in the sports car will choose to look at the car's body.  
He may wind down the window and ask a few questions.  
It'll be as well to humour him.  
Knowing how men like technical banter, here are

a few things you should know.

The long, lean front isn't just there for the looks. Oh dear me, no.

It's made so as to cushion the blow should you make the chance acquaintance with a brick wall at 50 miles an hour.

The seats, now.

The cushion and backrest, inform him firmly, incorporate a network of metal wires tensioned by coil springs. The kind of comfort you've been aching for.

The whole driver's seat can be moved, not only forward and back, but also up and down.

Useful if both a 6ft husband and a 5ft wife drive the car.

Oh, and there's a rather charming quartz clock that you could put Big Ben right by.

Being a man, he'll want to know about the engine. It's new, I believe, you should say in a throwaway manner. Rather bigger than before.

Very smart off the mark, you might add, wondering whether to put him through his paces.

But then, of course, it has got an aluminium head and an overhead camshaft.

So quiet, and the torque's as marvellous as ever. He'll know what you mean.

To floor him totally, all you have to do is drop in a line about the cross-flow cylinder head making for better scavenging.

He'll be a slave for life after that.

If he's still asking for more, tell him all about the handling.

How, what with the new spring struts, the anti-roll member and the lower centre of gravity, it corners like a dream.

And rack and pinion steering is so effortless, you know.

Having said that, slip the ignition key into the snug new lock (the engine will fire first time with its new powerful starter) and pull away with arrogant ease.

Here is a suggestion of an exit line.

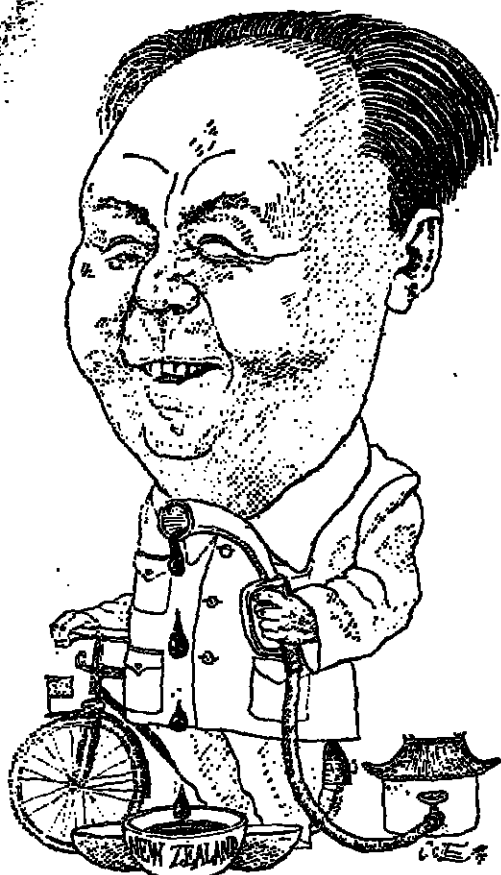
Look witheringly at his lowly vehicle and ask him if he hasn't ever hankered after something as reliable as a Volvo.

It should be the coup de grâce.

### The new Volvo 244.



## Where China has to compromise over 'self-reliance'



A mediocre car costing more than £4,000, and an offer of oil for New Zealand, are the opposite ends of China's strange economic dilemma. The country is just reaching the point where the policy of "self-reliance" is likely to prove drastically less effective than it has done in agriculture. The expected boom in Chinese oil production over the next few years will probably save Peking from facing up to the potentially serious consequences of this policy.

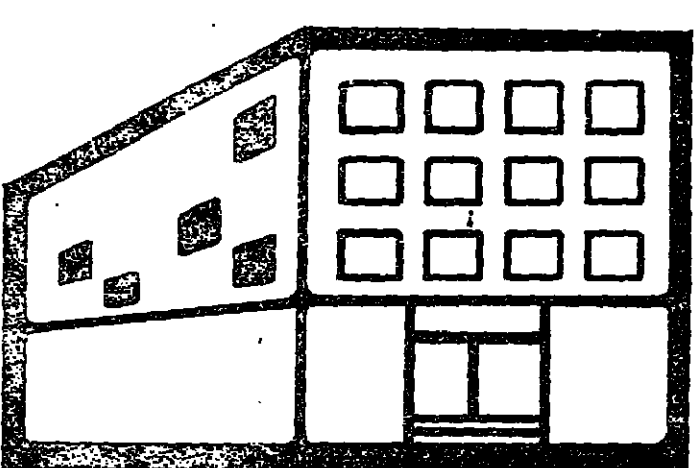
There are many indications just now that economic policy is being strongly debated, as the country prepares for the fourth National People's Congress and the last year of the current five year plan. Increased emphasis, in films, stage plays and the public media, on the policy of technological self-reliance suggests that it is still meeting a good deal of resistance. "Self-reliance" has always been a question of degree rather than of definition, since China invented gunpowder and the west used it to dismember her. The ideas of Chairman Mao Tse-tung by no means rule out imports of foreign knowledge—indeed they encourage them. But the slogan itself, and the nationalistic feelings it can arouse when abused, have led China's industrial development up a number of one-way streets in the past.

"Self-reliance" seems to be a splendid means of developing agriculture in poor countries and guaranteeing a livelihood for millions of peasants. But it is probably unworkable without the political system under which it is implemented in China.

In industry and technology the virtues of "self-reliance" are largely born of necessity and are questioned by many knowledgeable western industrialists and businessmen. When Russia withdrew its technicians in 1960 the Chinese simply had to find their own way of developing steel and other industries and even building nuclear missiles. But recent experience has shown that the policy is much less useful when applied to more simple things in China, though

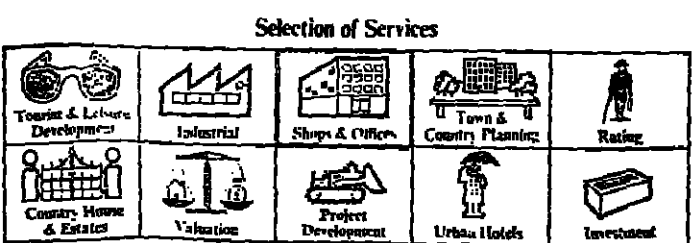
David Bonavia

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## The tragedy and the conflict behind the war's last secret

## How thousands of Russians went home to their deaths

"The last secret of the Second World War" as Alexander Solzhenitsyn described it, was Britain's and the United States' delivery to the Soviet authorities of between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 Soviet citizens, displaced persons from German prisoner-of-war camps and labour units as well as others who had willingly changed sides during the war. Virtually all of these millions, whether they had betrayed the Soviet Union or not, were sent to the labour camps of Siberia where they froze and starved to death in huge numbers. Now that the relevant documents are available one can see that this decision, one of the most life-destroying of recent history, was taken only after an unusual and highly emotional conflict between various British officials and senior ministers.

Russians began falling into Allied hands after the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944. In the early days about 10 per cent of men captured in German uniforms were Soviet citizens, most of them starved and humiliated, who had been pressed into service on the Atlantic Wall. They were shipped to the German mainland, where they were naturally seen as a thorough nuisance and a possible threat to the German Alliance. On July 17 the Cabinet agreed in principle to hand them all over to the Soviet authorities as soon as shipping could be arranged.

There the matter might have rested, had it not been taken up most energetically by the minister responsible for the famous espionage and sabotage team known as Special Operations Executive. On July 21 he addressed a most moving letter to Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary. "I am profoundly moved by the decision of the Cabinet to send back to Russia all Russian subjects who fall into our hands on the battlefields of Europe. I propose to address the Prime Minister on this subject, but before doing so would like you to know the grounds of my opposition, in the hope that we may find ourselves in agreement in this matter."

"As you may know, one of my officers has during the past few weeks interviewed a number of Russian prisoners, and

in every case their story is substantially the same. In the first place they are subject to incredible hardship and treatment on being taken prisoner. They were marched in many cases for several days without any food. They were placed in concentration camps under appalling sanitary conditions and were starved. They became infested with vermin, they were the victims of loathsome diseases and starvation was carried to such a point that cannibalism became prevalent. In more than one instance the Germans filmed cannibalistic meals for propaganda purposes.

"After several weeks of this treatment and when their morale was completely broken, they were paraded and addressed by a German officer, who invited the prisoners to join the German labour battalion in which they would receive proper clothes, rations and treatment. They were then asked individually if they would accept this offer or not. The first man when asked replied 'no'. He was immediately shot. The same thing happened to the second and to the third and so on until at last one man said he would, and then the others also agreed, as it was clearly the only way of saving their lives."

The SOE officer mentioned in Selborne's letter was Major L. H. Manderstam, who had been born in Riga, the capital of Latvia, and travelled widely in England before coming to live in the United States. Manderstam, who after only a few days in the labour battalion they were given rifles and simply told they were in the German army. Their only hope was to fight furiously on the Eastern front, and they were told, because if they fell into American or British hands they would be handed over to the Soviet Union and shot. But while some accepted this story and fought hard, others believed that the western allies would give them asylum and that the first chance of escape was

Some of the more thoughtful prisoners gave another reason why their return to Russia was unthinkable: "Should we return we would be an embarrassment to our government. We were told that in Russia the

lot of workers was better than in any country in the world. Since we have been taken prisoner we know there is a higher standard of life in France, in Belgium, in Norway, for the workers than in Russia. . . . Stalin would never be able to have us back. . . . Our lives might be spared but the stigma of traitor attached to us would never be removed."

Selborne suggested that it might be possible to face Soviet Russia. He had spoken to Free French leaders who thought a place might be found for them in Madagascar or other underpopulated colonies. Once they were sure that they would not be sent back to face Soviet Russia, they would desert to the Maquis by the thousand. Any such idea was preferable to a policy of forcible repatriation which, when it became known, would cause a great outcry in this country as well as in America. And as for the moral aspect of the problem, Selborne's position was a firm one: "The prospect of sending back many thousands of men to die, either by execution or in Siberia, must be repellent to every Englishman."

As soon as Eden received this letter he scribbled a note to his officials in the Foreign Office: "What do you say to all this? It doesn't deal with the point, if these men don't go back to Russia, where are they to go? We don't want to have an objective interrogation. He is a Russian-speaking Balt and

does not make the impression of being trained at sifting evidence."

It was one of the tragedies of the war, this hostility between SOE and the Foreign Office, which is described in detail by many senior SOE officers as well as the official SOE historian, Professor Michael Foot. "The Foreign Office disliked us because we were set up outside their control and in rivalry to their own secret service," one leading SOE man has said. Professor Foot writes: "Plenty of trouble for the Foreign Office was caused by SOE activities in various parts of the world, and senior diplomats as a rule regarded the organization with disdain, as an ungovernable body it was better to keep clear of."

Warner was certainly wrong, both about the SOE and about Manderstam. No one seriously believes now that the Russian prisoners were exaggerating either about their sufferings in Germany or about the fate that awaited them in Russia. And Manderstam himself had by 1974 succeeded in building up a chemical engineering business worth many millions of pounds, thus proving surely that he was capable of being objective and of sifting evidence. But in 1944 it was not so. Warner was more readily believed. Also his minister, Anthony Eden, had far more political influence than Selborne.

Warner did not share Selborne's sympathy for the prisoners. "These men have been serving in the German forces and we have no evidence but their own that this was against their will. I think we should be careful not to become sentimental about them."

This advice made its way up the chain of command to Eden, who noted his agreement, adding a request for a draft letter to Selborne "to whom I suppose a reply is due."

Meanwhile Selborne had sent the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, a shortened version of his letter to Eden, and Churchill's initial reaction was sympathetic. "I think we should take this rather summarily at Cabinet and the point raised by (Selborne) should certainly be reconsidered. . . . I think these men were tried beyond their strength."

But Eden, who has long been a question mark, he came to the conclusion that it was original decision all the Russian they wanted by force if it was German military formation of which it been revolving agreed with cannot afford about this. . . . We surely permanently number of them continued. To them would be with the Soviet. We have no do this and the motives. They are tremendously from the emblems on a this would arouse suspicions. . . . of our what allied govern the Soviet Gov as regard nationals."

Eden's final the most compe one. There were large numbers American pris in Eastern Europe. The Red Army quickly towards the German shortly overran them. Many in a prospect wrote: "It is that they should for and return possible. For that to a great end good will, and if culty over return their own nation it will reflect ad willingness to be to us our own

To be con  
Nichol  
Copyright Nich  
1974

The author's bo  
Secret, was p  
October 31 by Ar



1943: Mr Eden and Mr Molotov meet in Moscow.

## The promise and the danger of the new Algeria

The twentieth anniversary of the outbreak of Algeria's revolution against French rule will be celebrated on November 1 with particular éclat in Algiers, in the presence of all the Presidents and potentates of Arab and non-aligned countries. What struck me was that the country at long last seemed to have come to terms with itself, its past, and with France and the outside world. People were more relaxed and confident, less tense and aggressive than I had known them. Algerians are beginning to view themselves with a little more detachment and objectivity. I was struck by a strong sense of Islamic tradition and nationalism, he has consolidated his moral and political position among his own people and far beyond the circle of non-aligned countries in the past nine years. He has come to be regarded in western capitals as an element of stability in a shifting Arab landscape.

Since the revolt of Colonel Zbiri in 1967, his authority has been unchallenged, save for occasional outbreaks of rumbling and grumbling among students and intellectuals. All leaders of the revolution who might challenge his position are either dead or in exile. Mr Raba Bitat, now a minister of state, is the only survivor of the six so-called "Sons of All Saints Day" who led the revolt of 1954. There is no organized opposition in the country worthy of the name. The trade unions, the peasants are quiescent. The population is politically apathetic. The only real power is

still very tough for the majority of Algerians. Only one in three of the working population is fully employed. The galloping birth rate is one of the highest in the world. But the country is definitely a going concern.

President Houari Boumedienne is something of a Cromwellian figure—a "soldier-monk", tough and austere. He is only 40 and has only made his mark as chief of staff of the Algerian liberation forces when he succeeded Mr Ahmed Ben Bella in 1965. With his blend of cautious realism, and indigenous socialism, coupled with a strong sense of Islamic tradition and nationalism, he has consolidated his moral and political position among his own people and far beyond the circle of non-aligned countries in the past nine years. He has come to be regarded in western capitals as an element of stability in a shifting Arab landscape.

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in the hands of the army and the political security services. If President Boumedienne maintains his position, it is because they are on his side.

His election to the chairmanship of the Conference of Non-aligned Countries last year, and that of Mr Abdel Aziz Bouteflika to the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly this year, has given Algeria power and influence in world councils out of all proportion to her economic weight or position in the Arab world. She has used it repeatedly to support what she calls "just causes" like the creation of a Palestinian state and, more recently, to propose an informal "summit" of oil producers which will probably take place in Algiers before the end of the year. Always in the van of the opposition to any limitation of oil prices and production—she needs all the revenue from her oil and gas to finance her ambitious economic plans—she intends to propose a stabilization of oil prices at the present level, indexed to that of imported raw materials and capital goods.

In fact, the second four-year economic plan is based on calculations that the price of oil will remain at the present level, and will go up only to the extent the cost of imports rises. What the increase in oil prices since October 1973 has meant for Algeria is clear from the fact that whereas the first plan was financed to the tune of only 20 per cent by oil, the second will be covered to the tune of 90 per cent by

oil exports—excluding natural gas, of which Algeria will become the world's greatest exporter by 1980.

This sudden affluence, however, will not mean an immediate improvement in the lot of the 14,500,000 Algerians, nearly 50 per cent of whom are under 15, and three quarters of whom live on the land. The new economic plan maintains the same objectives of but and out industrialization as the first, with a slightly greater emphasis on housing and education. But agriculture remains a poor cousin with 14 per cent of total investment. It is the Algeria of tomorrow which President Boumedienne is building up at breakneck speed. The older generation, which 20 years ago was called upon to die for national independence, must now sacrifice itself to economic independence. The one cannot be secured without the other, in his view. His proud boast is that by 1982, the country will have emerged from underdevelopment as an industrialized country, capable of coping with a population three times as great as the present one.

There is no place in this scheme of things for self-indulgence. Consumption, in the eyes of Mr Boumedienne, the energetic Minister for Economic Affairs, is a very secondary consideration, and the shop windows of the capital have that same drab appearance one found in East Germany 10 years ago. But President Boumedienne is an idealist. He is convinced that he can produce from his own

people the necessary main-springs of efficiency and purposefulness without the incentive of capitalism.

The second phase of land reform, which involves the nationalization of 1,500,000 hectares of privately owned land, and affects some 16,000 owners, had begun at a slow tempo in 1973. It was not dictated by economic considerations, but was regarded by the President, himself a countryman, as an essential measure of social justice towards the 900,000 landless fellahs, neglected for the past 10 years. It has hurt many private interests, even in the ranks of the party, the army, and the government; and provoked discontent and criticism. But it will go on, along with the nationalization of firms, along the Yugoslav pattern, through the introduction of workers' control.

More serious than the discontent is the further decline in agricultural production which the land reform has provoked. Algerian agriculture has suffered for the past two years from a lack of incentive with neither the sick of colonialism nor the incentives of the "colons" to goad it on.

Some people in government circles say that the road to reform is through the nationalization of land but through the even more intensive development of industry, which would reduce the agricultural population. But for philosophic reasons, President Boumedienne insists on having his way. He also feels that the party, the

National Liberals should be playing in the new adventure, but a dismissal of a Mr Ka December 1972, t had no responsibility

As I watched it who paraded on K on the broad av out from Algiers t in which a seri vaunted the achi the new Algeria's from independent democratic educ agrarian revolution, tion of national and the "contin tion"—I was stru great youthfulness country. This is t and, in a sense, the Algeria of toa has embarked on mental race against

Will this young A as readily to au discipline as the which went throu Will the increas coming out of school 3,000,000 being edr elders to accept unea and underemployment cause of economic dence? The future c social work. The man who has a successor to appear him there is a danga tical vacuum. Algei going concern econo its political stabilita question mark.

Charles H

## The Times Diary

### Five elephants an hour a bit slow

Karl, one of the Germans in our group, was first to make the obvious joke. "I am a little late," he said. "I think the only elephants we shall see tomorrow will be pink ones. You can see that in your column. It does not work in German. There we talk about seeing white mice."

The train arrived exactly on schedule at 6 am and the authorities had begun to wake up 90 minutes before that, so it was a rather delicate work of observers who arrived at the round-up site at 7.30. That was when the event was launched with a series of brightly coloured daytime fireworks, whose special trick was to re-lease large parachutes attached to miniature parachutes, which floated across the field.

For those whose first round-up this was, there were hints on the programme about how to behave. "Please don't go too close to the elephants," it advised, and added: "Also, please refrain from pulling the hair from the elephant's tail." That is one of those injunctions barring you from doing something you would never have thought of doing in the first place, which tends to encourage you to do it, just to see what happens. But in this case we all showed great restraint.

The elephants are not professional entertainers. They are still used to haul huge teak logs in the plantations of Thailand, and that was a demonstration of that, and we saw a number of elephant races, in which the

creatures had to pick up a series of objects in their trunks and then place them in a circle. A few riders fell off.

Then we saw elephants playing football, have a tug of war, then taking part in war games with soldiers camouflaged by holding rotten tree branches in their trunks. To add variety, between elephant acts there were folk dances, in one of which the dancers were dressed as grasshoppers. The production lasted four hours, and if it had a fault it was that it lacked pace. But I suppose there is no way of making elephants move faster between acts.

It was accompanied by an outpouring of remorseless jollity from an American commentator who, when he was not giving the most intimate details of an elephant's sex life, spent his time in a quite fruitless attempt at preventing photographers from milling around the elephants, ignoring the instructions in their programme.

To send us on our way, the commentator advised us on things we could buy from the stalls surrounding the arena. The wooden seats which act as saddles for elephant riders would, he opined, make excellent stands for a television set. "Boy," he enthused, "are they a talking point when you get back home." I restrained myself from getting one of those, but did invest in a wide-brimmed straw hat, decorated in pink, which helped protect me from the intermittent rain. I look forward to getting it home and

trying it on with my new black velvet jacket, which should set people talking equally.

The return journey was more gruelling than that on the way out. We boarded the train at three in the afternoon and reached Bangkok shortly before midnight. Karl, the German, had the last word again. "We have been away for nearly 30 hours," he said, "and we have seen 150 elephants. That makes five elephants an hour."

Today we are off to Chiang Mai in the north—by air this time. I shall tell you about that when we get back.

### Noted jokes

During his 27 years with the Press Association, John Morecroft led a double life. By day he was chief of the association's Old Bailey reporting staff and by night he was their chief diner-out. "They knew they could always count on me to cover a dinner—I'd do about two a week—because the Old Bailey usually rises at five and after that I was free."

Morecroft, who retired two years ago, has now produced a book of after-dinner jokes, based on his evenings at Mansion House and Guhahall, called *White Tie Tales*. It is selling so well that the publishers have commissioned a second book on the same lines.

He used the same notebooks to cover trials as he did to cover dinners. "Jokes were crammed between the most horrific crime stories," he says. "I used to mark the jokes in the margin of the notebook during a speech and then transcribe them to another notebook the next day. I thought they might turn out to be of interest." The first story he covered at the Old Bailey was the trial of Lord Haw-Haw, but that "was not very funny."

At City dinners he always wore white tie and tails—his own—if they now hang in a wardrobe at his Dover home. "There is not much use for them here and I don't dress for dinner," he says.

### HELL

### GODS-EXPECTION

Today's sign indicates the freight office at Hell, north of Trondheim, Norway. The Reverend George Austin, who sent the picture, reports that when you get there Hell is a very dull place.

### Looking up

Britain's nine new students in Peking are benefiting from better conditions fought for by their predecessors in the academic year which ended last summer.

The students—including three girls—have access to a library at their institute, an issue which provoked a row between the authorities and British students who lived there last year. They have also been offered the chance to room with Chinese students, a privilege which was not even suggested to the others.

The new British language students are from Leeds, Cambridge and other universities. Their interests range from scientific development to the administration of the Ching dynasty, but they seem united in their enthusiasm for the experience of living at least a year in Peking.

Two girl students who went through the last year have been allowed to take a research year for a further academic year in Shanghai and the exchange programme is generally looking up. But the Chinese

authorities are still granting reciprocal exchange for the Chinese students in Britain.

### New pal

In June I reported the fortune of Desmond Guinness, who submitted word palindromes to the *Irish Times*. It had been told that it had been exceeded by a word from the United States. I am at the time that he determined to capture record for Britain, and his composition may do that.

He has extended the record to 950 words, though some of them are not (rabot, tombe rocella, I am, prepare to accept they exist. Although it is a kind of ransense, more half is a list of objects.

"A long plindrome writes," is almost certainly make strange nature words starts at the centre, thus the first half backwards way a number of unph happenings crop in, but not care."

Unpleasant indeed, vicious, like this: "Ev parish apcallion at a may ri' at all or sub; rai'd a yard, or snipe nine Italians" again. But a sleek Co again; at last, lob a bomb a yak, mar pagoda, lost rrcv. Glad to see least has the grace to m villains foreigner."





aintenance of freedom of  
in newspapers depends

butors. Here an even sharper question arises. Does not the citizen have the right, if he cannot persuade a newspaper to publish him, to put his view on public questions, whether or not he is a professional journalist? On *The Times* we have a number of Members of Parliament who write regular or occasional articles for us, so that particular political points of view can be represented. We do not employ these writers as journalists, though some of them are, but as politicians, to make sure that every shade of political opinion, at any rate from that of Mr. Enoch Powell to the far left, can over time be explained in its own terms in *The Times*. Under a closed shop the journalist can at least continue to write, though under limitations, by showing that he is a qualified journalist and joining the union concerned; but if a man is the distributor of scandal in the country of St. Patrick's he has another profession, and that could have the effect of excluding his writings from the public press.

Mr Foot in preparing his new legislation, and the National Union of Journalists, in advancing the legitimate interests of the union and its members, should recognize the issues of freedom which cannot but be involved. Neither for proprietors, nor for the printing press, nor for editors, nor for advertisers, nor for journalists, can newspapers be merely objects of commerce, subject to the same terms as other forms of trade or industrial bargaining. In newspapers, for all their commercial and industrial problems, is preserved the life of freedom.

North-east Asia has never been viewed as a geographical identity

crisis brought sharply home to the Japanese the price they could pay for too close an adherence to American attitudes. A switch from Israel to the Arab side was hurriedly arranged. Since then Japan has been more ready than before to exhibit fellow-feeling for the third world nations. Yet the basic attachment to the United States for sound economic and strategic reasons still holds. The American policy of détente with the Soviet Union and China has Japanese support.

Yet the doubt remains that the visit can be productive. If Mr Tanaka proves to be a lame-duck prime minister the personal relationship which President Ford emphasizes will go for little. As a President who has travelled overseas far less than any of his recent predecessors he can usefully get the feel of the country at a time of national self-wounding. He can assuage wounded pride when it survives and may allay some fears. The chief of these cropped up last month with agitation over American vessels entering Japanese ports allegedly without having first unloaded their nuclear weapons. Nuclear pacifism is not simply an issue dear to opposition parties in Japan: it touches the national nerves—and naturally enough. Nevertheless Japan's economic ties with the western world remain powerful and lasting. They remain the best guarantee of the American partnership.

## Mr Heath regains the initiative

not to indulge their own prepossessions about men and policy but rather the prepossessions of voters who fell by the wayside. It is arguable that on such an issue, even European Tories should give their votes to the Labour Party. Nevertheless, most of the lost votes occur at the margin of party commitment. An important test of Mr. Heath's leadership, or of any colourable challenger, is rather that he should pull in the votes of those who are not sure and make doubly sure of votes that have never been in doubt. It was part of the genius of Baldwin and Mr. Harold Macmillan that they passed such a test; and in more recent years, before he became an Ulsterman, we have seen Mr. Enoch Powell showing the same flair.

A colourable challenger? There is nobody yet in the lists against Mr. Heath, and it is not likely that any critical members of the 1922 Committee either name no name or tentatively suggest a name that carries no self-conviction. That, for the time being, is an important part of the strength of Mr. Heath's position.

Nobody, even states the requirements for the situation that may become—well, not exactly vacant but auctionable. In one sense a gap has opened up between Mr. Heath and the rest of the collective leadership. Iain Macleod, Mr. Maudling, Mr. Powell, Mr. Barber: none is at call to come to the aid of the party. Below Mr. Heath are loyalist hewenients like Sir Whitlam, Mr. Carr, Mr. Prior, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Mr. Peter Haller, who continue to fly Mr. Heath's flag. It should not be assumed that none of them would stand against Mr. Heath in any circumstances, though it may be taken for granted that they would do so only after reaching an understanding with Mr. Heath. They illustrate the truism that successful palace revolutions begin around the throne, and the 1922 Committee's hatchet men did not make sure that the throne had been isolated.

It is the same story. In an English fashion, I expect the defunct magic circle will now reform and work very felicitously through the democratic procedures that were

*From Mr Francis Pym, Conservative  
MP for Cambridgeshire*

provision of this, if I were minister, would be my prime aim.

In the month before the election and during the campaign, the Conservative platform was based on an approach to the future in consultation and conjunction with all parties concerned and connected with farming and food supply. In the debate on the Address the spoke of the need for a united approach.

At the AGM of the Country Landowners' Association on October 30, I put it thus: "I believe the situation has now become so serious that all those involved in the industry must come together and act together, regardless of political affiliation or any other consideration. It is not easy to raise politics out of anything, but all I am interested in is seeing that the best possible strategy for agriculture, in the circumstances that now exist, is identified, and set in hand without delay."

In my view, this theme is right for agriculture and right for the nation.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS PYM,  
House of Commons.

From the Secretary-General of the Food and Landowners Association.

His in his recent address in the House of Commons on the 17th of November 15 Lord Rotherham rightly asks that agriculture should cease to be a political football.

Agriculture needs stable long-term planning and heavy capital expenditure, particularly on the livestock sector, and the Government must ensure that the government decision after another affecting the industry is determined by political caprice and by the desire of each party on coming to power to undo the actions of its predecessor.

It is, which is especially interesting in long-term capital investment, has pressed for some time now for a standing, all-party Select Committee on agriculture. It was encouraging in the recent election campaign to see that at long last the importance of agriculture was fully recognized in all party manifestos. It was encouraging to see that agriculture during the debate on the Queen's Speech, members from all parts of the House of Commons

showed their concern for the industry and their willingness to help it in its plight.

The Planning Committee would be unable to examine the problems of agriculture objectively, on the basis of all the available evidence. It would advise Parliament, the Government of the day and the general public of the measures necessary to bring steady expansion properly into the industry, to the benefit of its producers of the industry. Confidence in the long-term future of farming would mean that producers and consumers alike were much less at the mercy of violent swings in prices and short-term political expediencies than they were at the moment.

Yours faithfully,  
**JAMES DOUGLAS, Secretary.**  
General,  
7 Swallow Street, W1.

**From Mr Michael Gordon**

Trade unions can claim to be democratic, though their machinery cracks with age. For example, members of the TUC General Council are elected to their positions of power by "millions of votes" at the annual congress. They do not elect an executive committee or a general council but are answerable only to the annual congress. No intermediate body has the right to influence or question their decisions and, indeed, this would be difficult, since the congress of the general council are confidential.

There is no perfect solution to the imperfections of trade union democracy, since it depends on imperfect men and women, most of whom lack an interest in politics. The only standard is that the system should be better than the alternative, including the trade union leaders themselves, recognize that the grass roots from which they derive their power are very poorly

nourished. And this applies not  
 only to trade unions.  
 "The Conservative Party," despite Mr Ron  
 Hayward's claim that it is "very  
 democratic," is also democratic by  
 default and subject to control by  
 realists. I am given to understand  
 that the Conservative Party is also  
 democratically imperfect. Only Far-  
 right claim, despite the im-  
 perfections of the electoral  
 machinery, to be nearly democratic  
 nearly 80 per cent of the elec-  
 torate cast their votes.  
 Yours faithfully,  
 MICHAEL GORDON,  
 Little Catterbury, The Haven,  
 Salisbury, Wiltshire, Gussess.  
 November 11.

*From Mr F. S. A. Doran*

nine graduates out of a total of 2,410. Hundreds hundred and thirty-six United Kingdom graduates, next year, will be surplus to the requirement of the training schemes.

By 1978, when the United Kingdom medical schools will produce 1,150 graduates, the Combined Training Schemes will be able to absorb only 1,556. For the other 594 there will be next to no hope of a permanent post anywhere in the NHS unless the staffing structure as a whole, but particularly in the hospital service, is radically re-arranged.

I hope the clinical tutors will now sit down and do a few sums.

Yours truly,  
F. S. A. DORAN,  
Past President, Worcester & Hereford Branch of the British Medical Association,  
Worcester General Hospital,  
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.  
November 5.

From Mr H. H. C. Prestige

*From the President of the Institute  
of Journalists*

freedom of the press. Unfortunately it was based on a total misconception of the facts which led to our being sacked on November 13.

We are surprised that the editorial director of the company which controls the *Kentish Times* is not aware of the true position, powers and role of district editors employed by his group.

*Kentish Times* district editors do not have the full control or legal responsibility that the word "editor" will imply for your readers. The *Kentish Times* is a series of nine local newspapers with many pages common to all of them.

and several pages appearing in the papers within individual London boroughs. The overall editorial control and responsibility for this work was in the hands of an editorial director and an executive editor.

The chapel has at all times accepted the right of these two people to select the communaries to which Mr Herbert referred and to carry out the duties implied in their positions irrespective of whether or not they are members of the NUJ.

Our chapel was also accepting the right to offer copies of publishing leaflets to other members under the supervision of non-NUJ district editors. The *Tenants' Times* management refused to accede to this.

Mr Herbert's letter omits two other fundamental facts. The communaries written by non-NUJ district editors from their "blacklisting" policy until the position of district editors had been ruled upon by the national general secretary and the national committee and the papers for which they were written were published last week.

Two of the district editors are NUJ members. They had written their local commentaries, which would have been handed by members of the council to the general secretary. The management, without reference to these district editors, unilaterally refused to allow these papers to appear. The freedom of the two district editors—which Mr Herbert says he is so anxious to protect—was taken away by the management.

Having been instructed by our general secretary that non-NUJ district editors' commentaries should not be handled, our members were faced with the choice of disobeying their instructions or of resigning from their jobs on the spot, with no notice or payment in lieu.

Yours faithfully,  
LEON REIS, clerk to the NUJ  
Kentish Times Chapel,  
80 Erith Road,  
Bexleyheath,  
Kent.

From Dr John Beloff and others

Thus, the only witnesses who could have cleared Naumov of the charge of illegally taking lecture fees have been hospitalized; the expert witness at Naumov's trial was none other than Dr. Srebnitsky who reiterated his well-known conviction that "parapsychology is a pseudo-science based on idealism and mysticism;" and it would appear that the numerous witnesses who had testified to the fact that they had bought or received Naumov's lectures from the club's director or his assistant were ignored.

All these circumstances suggest that there may have been a miscarriage of justice. It is also possible that Naumov, who is longer young, and is in poor health, has been subjected to very harsh treatment, that he has been beaten, and that he has intermarried and is suffering from postcoma and a severe neuritis of the left eye.

much hope that there will be an official investigation into the circumstances under which Mr Naumov was accused and sentenced, and that any harassment of his former collaborators will cease. Yours faithfully

JOHN BULOFF, University of Edinburgh, President of the Society for Psychological Research.

D. M. A. LEGGETT, Vice Chancellor, The University of Surrey.

J. B. PRIESTLEY.

E. R. DODDS, THOULESS, Cambridge.

D. J. WEST, Cambridge.

TED AARIN, Cambridge.

NORMAN COHN, University of Sussex.

ROBERT HARVIE, Oxford.  
JOSEF SCHUBERT, University of  
Sussex, University of Saskatchewan,  
FRANCIS HUXLEY.  
C. W. K. MUNDLE, University  
College of North Wales,  
A. J. ELLISON, City University,  
ANITA GREGORY, Polytechnic of  
North London,  
As from Society for Psychical  
Research.  
Adam and Eve Mews, W8.  
November 5.

From Mr A. R. McKechnie

The Romans gave free corn to the people and we know what happened to the Romans. I do hope that Mr. Merhuen is able to replant his part and leaving his vista open to the lake, but I urge him to avoid cost

**Honey from road verges**  
From Mr William E. Kearns  
Sir, With regard to the experience  
of the B... .. man, who:

letter you printed on November 1.  
 "White clover does not produce  
 nectar in significant quantities  
 unless the ambient temperature is  
 70deg F or higher. Perhaps on the  
 day of his investigation the tem-  
 perature was below this, as it fre-  
 quently is when this particular crop  
 is in flower, and the bees which he  
 did not see were gainfully employ-  
 ed elsewhere.  
 Yours faithfully,  
 WILLIAM KEARNS,  
 i Midholm















# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



### SC stresses need for 'sizable' price rises despite half-year profit of £82m

After Hill Corporation to allow the British Steel Corporation to introduce price increases from the beginning of next year could be the state steel undertaking's first half-year profit of £82m this year.

On costs the BSC chairman said that iron ore prices—which have already increased 33 per cent since the beginning of the year—would rise again as contracts were renewed.

Scrap prices had increased by 60 per cent between April and November. Coal prices had risen by 38 per cent in October, and even the Government's commitment to eliminate the nationalized industry deficit financing, a further substantial rise in the next few months could be expected.

The corporation had nevertheless achieved a cumulative saving of £20m-£30m as a result of cost economies over the past few months.

British steel basic prices were still lower than European prices, ranging from about 20 per cent to 25 per cent, according to grade, he said. Although there was every indication of softening demand he did not expect a wave of price cutting similar to other occasions when market conditions had deteriorated.

The need to retain a high level of cost control was crucial to the corporation's investment programme which was originally costed at £3,000m, but on latest estimates will now cost more than £4,000m.

In the first half of its current year investment amounted to £100m. It plans to spend some £350m next year, but its proposals are awaiting government clearance.

The BSC's plant closure programme under review which it considers an integral part of the investment plan, was also being reviewed by the General Election and some projects have had to be deferred.

Dr Finniston emphasized the desirability of pressing ahead



Mr. Gordon Richardson: Talks arranged at IMF meeting.

### Bank denial over aim of Kuwait visit

The Bank of England moved quickly yesterday to squash any suggestion that the visit of Mr. Gordon Richardson, the Governor, to Kuwait this weekend was the result of the announcement in last Tuesday's Budget that the sterling guarantee fund would be used to finance the project.

A spokesman for the Bank said that any idea that Mr. Richardson had had to go to Kuwait after Mr. Healey's announcement was simply not true.

The visit was basically for informal discussions with bank and government officials in Kuwait, and had been arranged at the annual IMF meeting in Washington.

Although the recycling of Middle Eastern oil funds into sterling will inevitably be one topic of discussion, it seems almost certain that the decision to allow the present sterling guarantee fund to be used to finance the project is not a point of particular contention.

The oil-producing states are believed to have been soured on their reaction to such a decision before it was announced and are not thought to have raised any objection.

Under the terms of the guarantee, parties to the agreement are safeguarded against any fall in the value of their sterling holdings beyond prescribed limits.

The current agreement guarantees the value of sterling holdings against any depreciation in the value of the world's other major currencies of more than an average of 18.35 per cent in the period from April 1 to December 31.

### Ratification terms putting pressure on Tunnel Bill

By Business News Staff

With the French likely to ratify the Channel Tunnel treaty this week, pressures are growing on the British Government to complete the parliamentary stages of their Channel Tunnel Bill by the end of this session, otherwise considerable financial penalties will have to be faced because of the abandonment, at least in contractual terms, of the project.

The two governments' agreement with the companies building the tunnel is that the treaty, already signed, should be ratified by January 1 or the project will be deemed abandoned.

With the companies now anxiously waiting for the results of their own reassessment of increased costs, it might not be easy now to renegotiate the January date.

The considerable parliamentary opposition to the Bill which emerged in last week's debate threw more doubt on the Government's ability to get the Bill through all stages, which is likely to include new petitions against it in the House of Lords.

If the January 1 date were overstepped the tunnel companies would be faced with the problem of whether to get up the abandonment guarantees which are their legal right in favour of taking a chance on the Government's ability to get the legislation through some time in 1975.

The problem which could arise if there were renegotiation of any kind, is whether the companies might call for a specifically higher figure to be nominated in the Bill covering the government guarantees to the Channel Tunnel Company.

The company has been raising at least 90 per cent of its development cash in the open market and the Government guarantees the loans.

The companies' own financial statements—due to be circulated tomorrow—will be checked subsequently by the government watchdog committee headed by Sir Alec Cairncross—also almost certain to push the estimated cost beyond the earliest total forecast of £846m. An additional, although subsidiary, forecast cost assumption has already been put forward by the company taking the 1980 outturn bill to £970m.

If timing on the tunnel were put back, or slowed in any way, inflation continuing at current rates would be bound to raise the cost of the tunnel and the company could be expected to extend protection work under the present preparatory phase two of the tunnel excavations has been going well on the British side of the Channel, near Dover, and is expected to come within target costings. Access tunnels have been completed on schedule and the giant boring machine which will slice out two kilometres of the main tunnel under the sea is now being assembled.

### Money supply growth accelerates but basic trend remains unclear

By Christopher Wilkins

Both definitions of the money supply accelerated during the month to the middle of October compared to the previous month, but the underlying growth trend remains unclear.

During July and August the money supply was expanding rapidly only to slow to an increase of 1 per cent during September in both the narrowly defined sense (M1) and the more broadly defined one (M3).

October saw a resumption of the earlier trend, with M1 rising by a relatively rapid 14 per cent because of a substantial increase in private sector current account deposits and a small rise in the note circulation.

Private sector deposit accounts declined, however, so that the growth in M3 was a more modest 1 per cent—albeit greater than in September.

But although October itself saw an upsurge, the three-month rolling average shows an M3 increase of only 7 per cent, the lowest rise since June when the money supply was under the most severe constraint. Taking that figure as a guideline would suggest that the Bank of England is reasonably well on target towards its stated objective of keeping the money supply growth fairly small.

The relatively slow increase in the growth of M3 is chiefly explained by an unusually small central government borrowing programme. Holders of sterling outside the banking system, both overseas and domestic, also increased their holdings of Treasury bills, so that, for the first time since June, the banks' and discount houses' holdings of government debt declined.

On the other hand, the Bank points out, lending by banks to the private sector accelerated during October to show a seasonal increase of £410m. But that was below the increases of April, June and July, and would have been lower except for a further reduction in official holdings of commercial bills.

Offsetting the increase in lending to the private sector was a sharp decline in lending to the public sector. Overall assets and liabilities rose by only £96m.

The banks continued to remain within the limits imposed by the supplementary special deposit system, the so-called "corset".

Against a ceiling of 14 per cent in the growth of their interest-bearing liabilities, their actual increase was 6 per cent. Within that total the London Clearing Bank group were rather higher at 8 per cent.

#### MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released today for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted, at the mid-month make-up date:

	M1 £000m	M3 £000m	Percentage change over 3 months at annual rate M1	Percentage change over 3 months at annual rate M3
1973				
Oct	122.3	31.0	-17.1	32.4
Nov	123.3	31.3	-9.5	24.8
Dec	123.3	32.2	-0.9	27.6
1974				
Jan	124.2	32.8	6.4	25.3
Feb	123.3	33.4	-2.3	28.5
March	123.3	33.4	-2.8	15.6
April	126.3	34.4	7.6	7.4
May	125.3	33.6	9.4	2.2
June	124.3	33.5	6.3	0.6
July	126.6	34.5	0.0	13.2
Aug	127.7	34.6	6.5	16.5
Sept	127.7	35.0	1.1	18.5
Oct	129.9	35.1	11.7	7.0

### New look at central body to represent engineers

By Derek Harris

Because of the controversy over the Council of Engineering Institutions' plans to restructure the engineering profession, another and, it is hoped, final version of the proposals is now being drafted.

Agreement among the 15 chartered engineering institutions, for which CEI is the umbrella body, is hoped for by January. But a CEI executive committee meeting has established how wide the division of opinion is among the institutions.

The division centres on a discussion paper in which the three senior institutions—the Institution of Civil Engineers, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and the Institution of Electrical Engineers—suggested the CEI should be replaced by a new body provisionally called the Institution of Engineers. The aim was to improve efficiency and create a more united front for the whole profession, including non-chartered organizations at present outside CEI.

The CEI's reply to this paper, discussed at its executive committee meeting at the beginning of the week, urged the sort of strong hierarchical structure for which there has been increasing pressure both in Whitehall and Brussels because of forthcoming European Economic Community issues which still have to be tackled.

But the three senior institutions, particularly the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, have been having to face parity with technician engineers on a new governing council, nor about changes that could strengthen unduly the role of Engineers Registration Board.

The CEI appeared to be envisaging the new organization's council as a formal body meeting only infrequently, whereas the three senior institutions had seen such a grouping as having the muscle to supervise affairs more closely.

It has also put forward a plan to collect professional fees centrally, dispensing them to bodies like the chartered institutions on the basis of an agreed budget. So long as the idea carries overtones of institutions ceding all control of such money, it seems unlikely to get approval by all.

### Mercedes names UK lump truck agent

Clifford Webb, head of Mercedes-Benz's assault on British commercial vehicle market will be strengthened as a result of a deal with Ward, one of the largest engineering operations. Mercedes has thus acquired a customer and a seller at the same time in a sector of the commercial vehicle market which is reckoned to be the most difficult of all.

Mr. Ward, manager of Mercedes-Benz UK (now a wholly owned subsidiary of Europe's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer), said last night: "Off-road vehicles are mainly unregistered and this poses difficult servicing problems. We chose Ward for this job because they have an excellent reputation for on-site service with vehicles operating from strategically placed local depots, most of which are close to motorways."

### Sugar gap boost for substitutes

By David Young

An unprecedented increase in the sales of sugar substitutes, led by the sugar shortage, has led several companies to switch to 24-hour production of them.

In Britain substitutes are no longer being bought solely as diet aids and in the United States the companies involved have announced expansion plans.

Before the sugar shortage the United Kingdom market was estimated to be worth £5m, with £500,000 being spent on press and television advertising aimed at the slimming market. Sales are now estimated to have trebled.

The three main "sugar type" sweeteners on the British market, Sucron, Slimcase Sugar and Sweet 'n' Low, contain pure sugar—98 per cent in the case of Slimcase Sugar—with saccharin added to increase sweetening power. A half spoonful of these products is normally equal to a spoonful of sugar, and costs are comparable.

In the market for "table-top sweeteners", saccharin tablets, Boots' Sweetest brand has the major share. A spokesman for Boots said the demand had risen dramatically over the past weeks, but despite this there were no supply problems.

### Chrysler closing US assembly plants for month

Detroit, Nov. 16.—Chrysler Corp. will shut its United States car assembly plants and some manufacturing facilities for a month of December, sources in the automobile industry said.

Chrysler would neither confirm nor deny the report, but an industry insider said the company had ordered no parts from suppliers for next week, which suggests that many component plant workers are likely to be laid off along with assemblers.

About 100,000 production workers are employed by Chrysler. More than one-third are in the United States, where the company has an estimated 113,000 workers would be idle.

Plants normally shut between Christmas and New Year's Day and workers are paid for that time. But United Auto Workers sources said the men would not be paid if laid off. The savings to Chrysler would be \$20m (about £9m) on that score, the sources said.

For the most part, the new agreements are unchanged from 1974. But small reductions in capacity are planned during the winter season in the New York-San Francisco and Chicago-San Francisco markets.

### Cambridge don criticizes Budget 'error'

Mr. Wynne Godley, director of the department of applied economics, University of Cambridge, in a paper commissioned and issued by Vickers, de Costa and Co., the City stockbrokers, accuses the Treasury of making an error in calculating the financial balance for current year equivalent to at least 4 per cent of gross domestic product.

That is greater, he says, than the change in the financial balance introduced intentionally in any Budget since 1950-51.

He is also critical of the "distinctly modest" relief of £800 offered to industry in the Budget to offset the huge increase in the book value of its stocks over the last year.

Mr. Godley concludes: "In this very complex situation no emphatic conclusions can be drawn about the likely behaviour of the stock market."

My view, for what it is worth, is that the collapse in equity prices is the consequence of exaggerated fears about the future.

"Accordingly, my expectation is that, looking, say, a year ahead, it is more likely than not that there will be a substantial recovery."

### CBI likely to continue pay guide exercise

By Malcolm Brown

Industrialists will be asked by the Confederation of British Industry on Wednesday whether the CBI should go ahead with plans to draw up independent guidelines on pay. The issue will be one of the main items on the agenda of the CBI's grand council.

Business leaders have made it clear that they have little faith in the wage restraint guidelines under the current contract. One of the confederation's top bodies, the employment policy committee, has already been doing preliminary groundwork for CBI guidelines for several weeks.

The meeting of the TUC General Council on Wednesday morning is bound to colour the thinking of CBI council members and asking their views. The union leaders will debate a TUC economic committee discussion document which offers scope for more scrupulous observance of the social contract negotiating advice.

The most likely outcome of the CBI meeting is that the employment policy committee will be asked to go ahead with a more detailed exercise in drawing up guidelines while keeping a watching brief on the TUC.

Industrialists are keenly aware of the political difficulties inherent in the exercise, since the existence of an alternative series of guidelines alongside those of the TUC could well produce a divisive mood rather than the cooperative relationship which the CBI claims it would like to see.

It may be, however, that by pressing ahead with its independent exercise the CBI hopes to produce a more genuine form of compromise solution.

### Bahrain refinery scheme shelved

Bahrain, Nov. 16.—Plans to add a \$90m (£38.5m) dealmaking plant to Bahrain Petroleum Company's refinery here have again been suspended, according to today's edition of Gulf Weekly Mirror, quoting reliable sources.

Bahrain's refinery is the fourth largest in the Gulf and the new plant would have produced 50,000 barrels a day of lead-free oil for the Japanese market. The plan was first put forward 18 months ago but was shelved during the energy crisis. Rising oil and labour costs are understood to have made the project uneconomical. The plan is now being postponed for a year or more.

### COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### ZAMBIA COPPER INVESTMENTS LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda)

PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANISATION OF NCHANGA CONSOLIDATED COPPER MINES LIMITED (INCORPORATED IN ZAMBIA)

At a Special General Meeting of members of the company held in Bermuda on the 14th November, 1974, the resolution authorising the directors to take such action as may be required for the adoption by Nchanga of new Articles of Association so as to enable the company to give effect to the arrangements described in the circular to members containing the notice which convened the meeting was passed without modification. A poll was taken and the result was as follows:

No. of Members	No. of Votes	No. of Members	No. of Votes
Voting for	62 870 893	Voting against	18 070
1079			

Subsequently at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members of Nchanga held on the 15th November, 1974, the necessary amendments to that company's Articles of Association were approved by the adoption of new Articles of Association.

Members are accordingly notified that the arrangements for the reorganisation of Nchanga have now become effective.

15th November, 1974.

Editorial Note

Of the total number of votes in favour of the resolution 61 873 231 represented holdings of the Anglo American Corporation/Chloro Groups (including Minicoro), non-group votes in favour totalled 997 662 by 1,061 members.

### PICCADILLY THEATRE LTD.

#### Viability of London Theatres

The 36th annual general meeting of the Piccadilly Theatre was held on the 13th November, at the Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, London. Mr. Donald Albert, Chairman, said that the results for the year ending the 31st December, 1973 had proved to be more than equal to the profits for the year ending the 31st December, 1971. The increase—even taking inflation into account—is substantial if one looks at the poor results for the year ending the 31st December, 1972, but the reasons for this are obvious. The results were grossly inadequate on your investment, even at this level, is still grossly inadequate. With regard to the current year, the results will unfortunately not be as good as last year, but in view of the difficult economic conditions prevailing, you will probably not be too disappointed.

As regards the future, the present financial situation of the country has made it very difficult for the Theatre to obtain finance for anything but small productions and there is a very grave risk that in the coming year the larger theatres will find it increasingly difficult to obtain the right kind of production. The industry has taken and is continuing to take every possible step to make the Chancellor of the Exchequer aware of the importance of the situation and to persuade him to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, who first exempted the Live Theatre from Entertainment Tax and then S.E.T., by zero-rating the Live Theatre in respect of V.A.T.

The proposed redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus has continued to take up an inordinate amount of the time and attention of your Directors. Very powerful influences are at work but we still hope that ultimately we shall be able to persuade the "powers that be" that, in view of the impossibly high costs of new construction, it would be madness to destroy the viability of any one of London's remaining theatres.

Our staff take very personal interest in your Theatre and we are very lucky to be so well served.

### Progress on insurance rescue fund

By Margaret Stone

Some points of agreement over the proposed rescue fund for failed insurance companies are beginning to emerge from the series of discussions being held between the Department of Trade and all sections of the insurance industry.

It now seems clear that the Government is sympathetic to the idea that the fund should be segregated into two, one part financed by the life assurance section covering life office failures, the other being the responsibility of the non-life companies.

The other proposal being put forward by the business as a whole, which appears to be gaining ground with the Government, is that rather than paying towards a standing rescue fund, insurance companies should be on call to meet their obligatory contributions to the kitty only in the event of an insurance company actually running into difficulties.

Other aspects on the mechanics of operating and financing a rescue fund are causing more trouble mainly because the insurance business wants a more equitable allocation of costs—which runs counter to the Department of Trade's desire to keep the whole operation as simple as possible.

Members of the Linked Life Assurance Group who met department officials last week are anxious to secure less onerous requirements for linked-life groups because linked-life funds are self-balancing—that is, the value of the units moves up and down in line with changes in the underlying worth of the assets. Such groups, it is contended, are very unlikely to run into trouble.

They are also concerned to secure a more equitable treatment for groups which write a large amount of single premium business, arguing that the upper limit of an annual levy of 1 per cent of premium income should be scaled down in respect of single premium business. It is argued that only one-fifth of single premium business income should be included in the total for calculating each company's contribution to the rescue fund.

The Life Offices Association, for its part, is anxious that costs should be allocated according to risk. It argues that as some forms of insurance are potentially more vulnerable than others, companies writing that kind of business should pay proportionately more towards the rescue fund.

It is also becoming clear that the mechanics of the proposed rescue fund will have to be closely dovetailed with the forthcoming regulations which apply when an insurance company goes into liquidation.

### Hoover pay deal ends stoppage

Workers involved in the 10-week unofficial strike at the Cambuslang factory of Hoover, near Glasgow, are to go back to work this morning. Five hundred key craftsmen decided on Saturday to accept the result of negotiations.

The management had made the date for payment of an extra £3 October 1 next year but the craftsmen wanted it brought forward. The extra money will be paid to grades 1, 2 and 3 skilled workers on January 1, to grades 4, 5 and 6 on August 1, and to the rest on October 1.

### Rover recalls 8,000 laid off by strike

Eight thousand men laid off by the strike of 45 key workers at the Rover-Triumph factory at Canley, Coventry, are being recalled today. The company hopes the strikers will return to work for negotiations on their pay grievance.

### Lending rate 11½ pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate remains at 11½ per cent this week. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury bill tender:

Applications	£200m	Allotted	£200m
Received <td>297.20</td> <td>200.00</td> <td>200.00</td>	297.20	200.00	200.00
Provision <td>297.20</td> <td>200.00</td> <td>200.00</td>	297.20	200.00	200.00
Average yield <td>9.0865</td> <td>9.0865</td> <td>9.0865</td>	9.0865	9.0865	9.0865
Next Friday	£200m	Replace	£200m

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# 2001

## Can you wait for it?

Most people take out life assurance on a long-term basis. Which is very sensible, because it gives long-term security, and profits. But most policies are not designed to help if you need the money sooner. With Scottish Provident's Selected Period Investment Policy, things are different. You can write the maturity date on the policy after 10 years. So you could collect in 1984. Without losing capital, and with profits. This type of policy is an invention of ours. It's been imitated, but never beaten. It means that if you can wait for the 21st century, that's fine. But you won't be penalised if you can't. Ask your broker. Or fill in the coupon.

To: Scottish Provident, 8 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2VA. Tel. 01-5559181. I'd like to know more about the S.P.I.

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**SCOTTISH PROVIDENT**

Making your money work



# Management

## £1 a week story of success

Somewhat over six years ago a pound a week bought a lot of commitment from employees of English China Clays, perhaps because that pound a week was more than the unions were demanding at the time, and it demonstrated a lot of commitment from the company's management. That pound might be called a symbol of a significant change in the climate within Cornwall's largest employer.

English China Clays was one of three companies telling their story at a management conference in London in a meeting that was successful in that it will be repeated in 1975.

The one day seminar was freshening for the absence of stories as well as the down to earth questions and answers. The speakers were as relevant as the audience. The personnel controller Mr W. E. I. Bosch was flanked by Mr Peter Dickson, chairman of the company, and Mr Tony Watt, secretary of the company.

Mr Bosch described the company's unique position, with about 6,000 employees thinly spread over a huge portion of the Cornish coast, working three and four shifts round the clock. In the early sixties the company wanted a unified character for its workforce, which had come together from generations of families working in small groups in the area. The pit bosses no longer had absolute power, but in spite of centralization neither did management, which still saw its attempts to set standard pay scales sabotaged by the local bosses' power to grant special bonuses or "piecework" money. To increase production the company had shifted to a great deal of overtime work.

A new deal was agreed between company and union officials, but the lay delegates rejected it immediately, since they had not been involved in its formation. Another agreement was achieved and published, but before management could explain it properly to the scattered workforce, discontent, uncertainty, walk-outs, and led finally in 1964 to the first strike for 30 years in the china clay industry.

A few years of quiet fence-mending ensued, with the company trying hard to increase contact with its workforce. Mr Dickson described the situation in mid-1968, though, as

somewhat less than perfect. There were 20 engineering grades alone, with a basic rate of £15.16s.10d. for a 40-hour week. About 20 per cent of the employees were working 60 or 70 hours a week for "decent pay" and the rest were subsisting at or near the basic rates.

Pay was handed out in deeply resented "pay parades". It was a 168 hour a week industry with no shift premiums, two weeks' holiday, poor sick pay, demarcation issues beginning to raise their ugly heads, and a general climate of mistrust.

The negotiating committee that sat down for six 12-hour days in June, 1968, had a huge task. The union negotiators had sent in by their members a list of demands for £20 per week somehow, to cut down on the gruelling overtime for the 20 per cent and bring the other 80 per cent up to a reasonable level of existence. The company negotiators felt it was time for drastic steps to try to improve the working atmosphere.

That was where the crucial pound a week came in. The company surprised the union negotiators by offering £21 a week as a basic wage, on the basis of a dramatically different contract with no overtime, higher pay for voluntary shift work, greatly increased benefits, and most important—a new way of commitment to a much more participative working environment.

In a four page preamble to that agreement, the two groups made a mutual statement of five principles to meet their joint objectives—principles that have taken on a kind of holiness in the ensuing years.

The first, and probably most immediately obvious to the unions, was security, which entailed doing away with overtime, piecework, and hourly rates. "People cannot be expected to contribute productive ideas in that climate," Mr Bosch said. Management cannot be in control where the only incentive to earn more is to work slower. We wanted no restriction on incentive and we wanted real rewards for efficiency.

The other principles were mutual trust, involvement, co-operation, and the motto that "people matter". "You cannot buy people," said Mr Roach. "Loyalty, effectiveness, co-operation, understanding, willingness to change—these are things you cannot buy. People give them, but only when they feel they really matter as individuals."

Once the principles were worked out and basic security needs filled to a greater extent, the company lived up to its participation commitment.

The most visible manifestation of the change during the first year was a 34 per cent improvement in productivity. Mr Dickson and Mr Hollingworth gave their snapshots of EEC in 1974 from the union view point, with similar optimism. The number of engineering grades is 5 instead of 26 now; the basic rate for a 40 hour week has gone up to £41.08 (give or take voluntary shift work at £52.47).

Workers have flexible starting hours, no overtime, a £1,000 death grant, decent superannuation and sick pay programmes (with the first three days paid on all occasions), three weeks holiday, and four weeks in 1975.

Mr Dickson noted an "80 per cent change in automatic management". He thinks that 20 years ago the company was a "company of slaves" and that it will not fail after six years, but these had "gone to ground". The demeaning pay parades had been replaced by a system in which the company goes around to each worker with his pay packet, giving them both a natural and regular opportunity to chat about the work.

The consultation mechanisms now include productivity groups, gang meetings, and meetings between managers or workers and shop stewards, as well as a direct link whenever necessary between the shop stewards and the top management.

The result of the pound a week—and the real commitment behind it—has been a growing climate of co-operation and mutual trust. In 1971-72, when an advice bureau of the type run by most truck manufacturers, Mercedes introduced a more down to earth approach to the shape of Fleet Information Systems (FIS). In less than 18 months it has been taken up by operators in Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland and South Africa. Today some 3,000 vehicles are using FIS.

Mercedes claim that its success is so impressive that they are having to train more staff to enable them to take on applicants. By the end of the year the total fleet will have grown to 5,000 vehicles. FIS is based on a monthly flow of information from

## A turning off the road towards bankruptcy

Throughout Europe road haulage companies are in trouble, due to trucks laid up for want of work or operating at uneconomic rates. In Britain Mr John Silbermann, vice-chairman of the Road Haulage Association, has warned that many British hauliers face bankruptcy unless they raise prices by over 20 per cent.

The truck manufacturers are just as worried as the hauliers. With sales depressed they fear that unless something is done quickly to improve the viability of the road transport industry it will be too weak to reequip when better days return.

There is also a less obvious reason for the manufacturers' concern. The bulk of road transport companies are composed of five vehicles or less. Because of their smallness they do not have the purchasing "leverage" of companies owning several hundred vehicles and have to buy their new trucks at higher prices.

It is, therefore, not in manufacturers' interests for the haulage industry to concentrate into bigger and bigger fleets which would seem to be the inevitable consequence of the pressures it is experiencing. It is against this depressing background that commercial vehicle manufacturers are using their expertise to improve the running of haulage companies. As Europe's largest manufacturer of medium and heavy trucks, Mercedes-Benz Germany is playing a leading role.

Since early 1972 operators of Mercedes vehicles have been able to take advantage of the company's consulting service. Initially it was little more than an advice bureau of the type run by most truck manufacturers.

Last year, however, Mercedes introduced a more down to earth approach to the shape of Fleet Information Systems (FIS). In less than 18 months it has been taken up by operators in Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland and South Africa. Today some 3,000 vehicles are using FIS.

Mercedes claim that its success is so impressive that they are having to train more staff to enable them to take on applicants. By the end of the year the total fleet will have grown to 5,000 vehicles. FIS is based on a monthly flow of information from

hauliers which is put through Mercedes computers at its Stuttgart headquarters. From the accumulated data company experts advise operators on ways to improve the economic utilization of each vehicle.

The secret of Mercedes' success—and it must be noted that FIS is still in its infancy and is not a panacea for hauliers—is in the choice of data.

If too much information is required the system becomes unwieldy and can consume more in additional wages than it provides. If too few data are provided then the forthcoming advice is too generalized to cope with the essentially individual problems encountered in road transport.

The best test of any new management tool is the first-hand experience of people employing it. Mercedes recently invited the European press to Linz in Austria to question ten heads of transport companies using FIS. They came from Austria, France, Switzerland and Belgium.

However, the operators were coy about giving details of cost savings directly attributable to FIS. Despite hours of intense questioning the only figure to emerge was provided by Herr Anton Müller, the head of a family haulage concern on the outskirts of Vienna.

He said FIS had enabled his 350 vehicle fleet to contain an 8 per cent cost inflation and hold its prices for over a year.

It was clear by the end of the conference that most of the journalists present thought that it would be at least another year before sufficient statistical evidence was available for them to make a proper assessment of FIS.

The Mercedes team present seemed to accept this while pointing out that at a cost of only 10 Deutsche marks a vehicle per month (less than £2) companies participating were only letting themselves in for minimal expenditure. FIS is not yet available in Britain which is Mercedes' west coast commercial vehicle market. It is significant that Herr Gerd Hoffmann, managing director of Mercedes-Benz UK and until recently head of export sales promotion at Stuttgart, played a key role in the development of FIS.

Clifford Webb

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## IBM's effective way of solving problems

From Mr M. L. Robey  
Sir, Mr Owen, in his article on IBM (November 11), made various claims about the company which I believe call for further qualification. Having spent an albeit brief period of seven months with IBM in its Hursley laboratories, I believe I can make a small contribution to the discussion.

In many ways IBM is influenced by the O & M methods which are practised by its specialist staff. Thus, management experts realize that task forces and multi-disciplinary teams, for example, are highly effective means of problem solving. After all, Britain's own Think Tank and Parliament's Committees are applications of this method.

The apparently dreaded flip-charts that were mentioned are quite simply one of the many methods used to help experts in highly technical areas communicate graphically in the course of lectures, etc.

They help those whose ability lies in areas other than education to nearly plan a "blackboard" layout away from the lecture room, thus giving more time for communication and less time wasted in art-work.

It should be noted that IBM's infrastructure of education is probably the largest in the industry, being the result of forward looking personnel policies.

Another area of enlightened personnel policy is the appraisal and counselling review scheme.

This is a deliberate plan for staff review by which ability and achievement are recognized. It is not the terrifying "career appraisal" described by Mr Owen. This system is being used by an increasing number of companies in order to review the progress of highly skilled personnel.

One should note also the existence of the "open door" policy, applied throughout the company, whereby an employee can appeal against management decisions or inconsistencies to a higher level. Also, the "speak up" policy is a communication link to the higher levels of administration, guaranteeing an open channel for suggestions and criticisms.

It is a terrible thing when a company has to cut back staff by 14,000, as Mr Owen points out that IBM was forced to do by the 1970 recession, especially when more than half of its employees are graduates who have specialized in that company's work. Nevertheless the company, as a whole, has had a remarkably steady rate of growth over its history, giving related job security to the quarter of a million now employed.

The verbs "to flip chart" and "to task force" sound completely alien to the English ear, but they are very much used in the United Kingdom to my knowledge, perhaps not even in the States.

I believe it was George

Bernard Shaw who said that England and America are divided by a common language, and I cannot better that. The nouns "flip-chart" and "task-force" remain because they stand for valuable new concepts in management.

The reference to the advert for an IBM song book was amusing, but should not be left unqualified. Ted Myrns's wife was merely referring to the songs published in the 1930s and 1940s by the sales-oriented company leaders. These books are great curios and three of their songs are published in William Rodgers's book *Think*. IBM's sales and advancement value of them is tremendous, but, sadly, most vanished in a fit of self-consciousness when IBM entered the brand-new world of computers in the 1950s, leaving the world of cash registers and bacon slicers and advancing towards the "speed of light".

IBM is extraordinary. It personifies the management doctrines taught in the best business schools in the United States and Europe. It flourishes (nearly doubling its turnover in five years to \$2,946.5m, paying \$1,317m in United States and foreign taxes). Traditionalists may scoff, but can they do better?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL L. ROBEY,  
8 Greengate,  
Greenford,  
Middlesex,  
November 13.

## Now an extra bill for the privilege of being a self-employed person

From Mr Richard Need  
Sir, Now that the subject of self-employed national insurance contributions has been raised in the House perhaps you will allow it to move sideways from your Business pages, particularly in view of the appalling prejudice or ignorance shown by some Labour MPs.

No doubt there are abuses of the Schedule D tax system, but to counter these by penalizing every self-employed person is a par with making every employed worker responsible for the few miscreants who live on security rather than turn their hands.

Many people are self-employed because their particular trades or professions offer no alternative. As a result—and it's fair enough—they have to make pension schemes, no doubt, no overtime, no redundancy pay, no subsidised canteens, no luncheon vouchers, no incentive to strike, no threshold agreements to bolster them against inflation and no powerful trade unions to indulge in national blackmail on their behalf.

They have a built-in "productivity scheme" whereby their incomes are geared to their rate of work, a scheme which is administered by nature with a ruthlessness which would horrify the average trade union leader. Their one privilege is a fierce independence by which they stand and fall by their own successes and mistakes.

For the privilege of a self-employed person for fewer benefits, makes a personal weekly contribution of £2.41 to the national insurance scheme compared with the employed person's 84p—an example of social inequality which would make a Socialist government would be at pains to correct.

Instead, from next April, Mrs Castle is demanding up to £3.07 extra. Social equality, in this case, favours the already costly cost of living.

Perhaps we self-employed might take a leaf out of Labour's book, defy the law, refuse to pay the new tax and hope that a new Government will let us off the legal hook. But we won't of course.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD NEED,  
408 Strawberry Hill Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.

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Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD NEED,  
408 Strawberry Hill Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.

## Three door Mini—why not here?

From Mr Ivor Hall  
Sir, The article in your issue of October 22 on the three door British Leyland Mini being produced in Italy, and my subsequent visit to the Minor Show, prompts me to record my dismay that British Leyland are not producing this most versatile "Mini" in this country.

This would appear to be a golden opportunity for British Leyland to update the Mini and to fight the considerable competition from the continent for the three-door Mini market. One was very aware looking round the Motor Show, that nearly every overseas manufacturer was producing such a vehicle.

Surely the decision-makers at British Leyland must be aware of this competition. If they are not, they are not doing their job; if they are, I believe they are losing out on a very important part of the market.

The rear door is a great convenience for loading and unloading of luggage, shopping, and at the moment I am looking at the Volkswagen Golf and the Renault 5L as possible replacements for my wife's present Mini. If the model illustrated in *The Times* had been available in the United Kingdom, I would have looked

Yours faithfully,  
IVOR HALL,  
The Studio,  
13 Highgate High St.,  
London N.6  
Oct 24.

## The nation first

From Mr J. H. B. Gowan  
Sir, Surely Mr Benn's pronouncement on the George Kent proposals is the most astonishing even he has made. "Mr Benn said the main factor (in his decision) has been the preference expressed to me by the workers in George Kent for the Brown Boveri proposals."

It may be that the Brown Boveri proposals were the best from all points of view, but George Kent is part of our national heritage and its fate should be decided on what is best for the nation and not what is most convenient for the workers.

If it is Labour policy to treat all businesses as a sort of private preserve of the workers, to be handled purely on a basis of what suits them best, we are in for national bankruptcy in very short order.

Yours etc.  
J. H. B. GOWAN,  
38 Old Slade Lane,  
Iver,  
Bucks.

## Piece of string, a hammer and a nail

From Mr C. F. Pratten  
Sir, A Professor of Economics used to enliven lectures on inflation by describing the experience of a German ironmonger who inherited his business from his father. The father instructed the son to add a fixed mark-up to his purchases to fix selling prices. The unfortunate son faithfully followed this advice until he was left with a piece of string, a nail and a hammer, which he used to hang himself.

Godley and Wood assume for the purposes of their illustrative example that industrialists borrow all the finance they use for stocks. Many companies finance their stocks out of equity capital. In their case the real value of the assets of the companies would be eroded unless, in addition to their normal mark up, they charged a mark up to allow for inflation.

In 1973-74 this additional mark-up would be about 8 per cent (allowing for inflation of 20 per cent, grossed up to 40 per cent to allow for tax and for stocks to be turned over five times a year). Such a mark up for sales to the home market is not compatible with existing price controls.

Given price control, much of the profits earned by companies are stock profits, and if these are taxed, a part of the real capital of companies, like the capital of the provincial ironmonger, will disappear.

Yours faithfully,  
C. F. PRATTEN,  
Trinity Hall,  
Cambridge.

In fact, the practice of companies varies, some use equity capital alone to finance stocks and some use a combination of equity and long-term loans, but very few use short-term borrowing to finance all their stocks—if for no other reason than that banks simply do not allow it to happen. The problem is not one of liquidity or credit alone, but of capital and therefore profits.

A further point which has so far been left unsaid is that the effects of the profits squeeze on the competitiveness of British firms. If the practice in other countries is to allow companies to write off stock appreciation to arrive at taxable profits, their companies will achieve an advantage over United Kingdom companies. This will result in less investment in plant, product and market development which will exacerbate our balance of payments difficulties in the future.

Emancipation of the equity and loan capital of United Kingdom companies might, by price control and taxation, have more serious long-term consequences than the surrogation of the capital of holders of long-term government securities by inflation in spite of nationalisation of the worst hit companies.

Yours faithfully,  
C. F. PRATTEN,  
Trinity Hall,  
Cambridge.

Yours etc.  
J. H. B. GOWAN,  
38 Old Slade Lane,  
Iver,  
Bucks.

## Postal position

From Mr K. H. Hennings  
Sir, Professor Balfour (Business News, October 14) is wrong: a letter sent from West Germany to Britain requires 70 pfennig postage, roughly 11.5p. A letter posted to other members of the EEC would cost only 50 pfennig, but as HM Post Office has refused to follow the example of other EEC countries and insist on a bilateral basis the rates for letters sent to EEC member countries to the level of inland postage rates, the West German Post Office feels obliged to charge the standard rate for letters abroad.

Yours sincerely,  
K. H. HENNINGSS,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Reading,  
Whiteknights,  
Reading RG6 2AA  
October 16.

## Diversification: the keynote of a record year for W Ribbons

Results at a Glance £'000:	1974	1973
Group Turnover	4,309	2,728
Profit before Tax	430	257
Profit after Tax	173	145
Total Dividend	1.75p*	1.75p
Earnings per Share	4.65p	4.48p

\*Share option available in lieu of 1p final dividend.

Highlights from the Chairman's Review:  
A very successful year. Record profits up 61%, despite sizeable loss by overseas associate company.  
Group's liquidity achieved very healthy state.  
Exports contributed substantially to profit.  
Policy of expansion into other industrial fields continued. Over 65% of sales now outside motor trade.  
Current year started well. Order book very good. Margins remain adequate.

**'W' RIBBONS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED**  
Copies of the full Report & Accounts and Chairman's Statement are available from the Secretary at 22 Commerce Way, Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4PH.

## UNILEVER N.V.

### DIVIDEND ON CERTIFICATES FOR ORDINARY SHARES

issued by

#### N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE—EN TRUSTKANTOOR

An interim dividend in respect of the year 1974 of FL.23.92 per FL.20 nominal amount of Ordinary Capital of Unilever N.V. has been declared. This dividend is equivalent to the interim dividend in respect of the year 1974 declared by the Board of Directors of Unilever Limited calculated in accordance with the Equivalence Agreement between the two companies.

A similar dividend will be paid to holders of the above Certificates on and after 15th December, 1974 as follows:

CERTIFICATES FOR SUBSHARES OF FL.12 IN THE NAME OF MIDLAND BANK EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE COMPANY LIMITED (NOM. MIDLAND BANK TRUST COMPANY LIMITED). The dividend is equivalent to FL.17.58 per sub-share and will be paid against Serial No. 93. Having regard to the relief from Dutch dividend tax, the dividend payable by the Netherlands for the avoidance of double taxation, the sterling amount payable per sub-share is as follows:

	Where the Sub-shareholder is a resident of—		Any other country and in all other cases	
	The United Kingdom	Any other country and in all other cases	The United Kingdom	Any other country and in all other cases
Sterling equivalent of FL.17.58 (converted at FL.10.00 = £1)	28.9169	28.9169	28.9169	28.9169
Less Dutch dividend tax (25%)	7.2292	4.1475	7.2292	4.1475
FL.10.00 = £1.00 = 100p	(25%)	(15%)	(25%)	(15%)
Less United Kingdom Income Tax at 10% of the gross dividend	2.8917	2.8917	2.8917	2.8917
Net amount payable per sub-share	18.8960	19.7424	18.8960	19.7424

In such cases Dutch dividend tax is deducted at 25% and from the balance the U.K. paying agent deducts 10% of the gross amount. In the Netherlands the 25% dividend tax suffered will be allowed as a credit against the tax payable on the dividend. The net amount payable is shown according to the rate of the gross dividend. Under the Anglo-Dutch Convention such shareholders are entitled to a reduction in Dutch dividend tax from 25% to 15%. On collection of the dividend in the U.K. the paying agent deducts tax at 10% of the gross amount. This represents a credit against the Dutch dividend tax. The net amount payable is shown according to the rate of the gross dividend. The net amount payable is shown according to the rate of the gross dividend.

The shareholders of the above dividend Sub-share Certificates must be in a position to obtain from one of the following:

Midland Bank Limited, New House Department, Austin Friars House, Austin Friars, London EC2P 2HL.

Midland Bank Limited, New House Department, Austin Friars House, Austin Friars, London EC2P 2HL.

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Midland Bank Limited, New House Department, Austin Friars House, Austin Friars, London EC2P 2HL.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## The retail sector after the Budget

Mr Healey's proposals may or may not be assured the retailer's Christmas and, even set in train the of a high level of through to the early while unleashing deflation for the future (in of inevitably sharp rises), the Chancellor to immediate action the consumer. So comes that have bobbed an unexpectedly cheer since August now look of, of course, the ound of threshold in- as if they should con- push ahead at least into year. After that the will start warming up next Budget, and the of differential value- and other fiscal disin- to consumption could ep the momentum going rough to March.

Mr Healey's proposals, which do touch on the s, the specific measures ribitry in their impact, ices have tended to rise than those for textile Tesco gains around £7m deferrals resulting from x allowances for stock ation. In non-foods, Debenhams are bene- but a group like Marks nter, where stock levels contained last year, hardly at all.

en it comes to the relaxa- in the Prices Code, these ny appear to have spelled alarmist sections of the If net margins fall by thio a quarter below refer- levels, retailers can raise gress to compensate. The- ally, this is good news for notable sufferers as Wool- h, Burton Group, and nham's (whose margins eared in its recently pub- interim results). But in ice the central problem e these groups is market e and image. They may, in find it extremely difficult improve gross margins by ing prices: the climate re- is competitive and larger vices like Tesco appear to e stinging to improve market re on a pricing basis.

ut whether they gain from latest Budget or not, rers should now be over the as far as margins are nered. The enforced 10 cent cut in the gross in- y meant that a group like ks increased its sales by a fifth and just maintained profits. From the second ar of next year's sales gains, ether the result of inflation volume gains will start to e lected in earnings growth, vided internal costs do not ease at a faster rate than ices.

The worrying aspect is the sibility of further govern- controls next year. The rent annual saving from ss margin cuts is estimated ound £400m by the Price mission. In other words the adlers are protecting the com- mer from the underlying eases in prices to the extent of per cent. Estimated saving £245m in the manufacturing or put this figure in per- spective. There must obvi- ously be some risk that the vernment will indulge in rther selective controls next ar, when prices really start ke into real disposable ome.

### Engineering

### The worry now is demand

It is unlikely that the Budget measures will have anything like as tangible an effect on profits in the capital goods sector as in the consumer sector, simply because of the different nature of the profits involved. One thing that stands out in my analysis of United Kingdom engineering and certain other

heavy manufacturing industries is the high proportion of profits—typically between a third and a half, or even more—that are derived from overseas sales. Sterling depreciation has given rise to large differentials between the price at which a United Kingdom manufacturer can currently sell in Europe (at 35 per cent in the case of wrist drills) and that which a domestic producer can offer.

Given this and the relative freedom from price controls overseas, United Kingdom engineers have seen handsome margins on overseas sales. It is no surprise then that the profits curve in engineering has in many cases turned sharply up this year, while that for more United Kingdom dependent and therefore more constrained sectors has often declined. The converse of this is that the engineering sector stands to gain less on the Price Code concession front, both in terms of the productivity deduction and the 17 per cent capital investment rule.

There is, moreover, another reason for supposing this to be true. Though United Kingdom order books in engineering have remained remarkably firm this year, there is some very recent evidence of a general downturn. If orders continue to fall away, the scope for increasing prices in line with the revised code clearly diminishes.

However, the essential point on this score is that capital goods profits are in any case much more determined by the level of capacity utilization in relation to overheads than they are by prices and that even the continuance of export demand cannot be guaranteed. Falling demand and narrowing price differentials, certainly, Europe, influence the picture here and it seems unlikely that British manufacturers will get more than a modest devaluation boost, at least as long as Arab funds do not take flight.

Investment provision, this seems unlikely to stimulate larger new investment or the resuscitation of shelved projects—Metal Box said so on its own behalf last week—but it will help to recover more of existing investment costs. This, though, is always subject to the market remaining firm enough to stand higher prices.

Post-Budget research by Phillips & Drew shows the theoretical price increase (as a percentage of United Kingdom sales) allowed by the investment provisions. It is between 1 and 2 per cent for the leading general and heavy engineering groups; the significantly higher percentages being in more United Kingdom oriented sectors outside engineering, though an exception is probably the chemical sector.

The stock appreciation provisions will certainly assist liquidity in the engineering sector, though again the beneficial impact will be lessened where a company has heavy capital allowances to set against taxable profits already. The investor should regard the Budget provisions as being calculated mainly to keeping the capital goods sector companies in business in the general context of increased liquidity, rather than as a shot in the arm for profits and share prices.

**Edward Bates**  
Outstanding questions

Edward Bates and Sons (Holdings) has managed to recover some ground in the stock market since the troubles of its Welfare Insurance subsidiary pushed the shares down to 18p in October. But an historic price ratio of under 21 and a yield of nearly 30 per cent at 25p will reflect considerable doubts about the ongoing business that London and Manchester and the National Westminster have agreed to shoulder the burden of Welfare's spiralling cash needs.

In the year to March 31, 1974, the banking subsidiary, expanded at breathtaking speed, with deposits soaring from £48m to £151m and advances rising from £17m to £71m. In the light of the precipitate and costly purchase of Welfare last year and the rapid pace of the build-up, the market's concern about the quality of the rest of the business looks understandable.

Some clues about the course of events since the publication of the balance sheet in June can be gleaned from Bates's statement at the time of the initial agreement with London and Manchester over Welfare. This referred to a liquidity ratio in the bank "currently in excess of 30 per cent of deposits", which represents a net asset value for the group of around 80p.

Simply making allowance for write-offs of over £94m on Welfare would not have reduced Bates's net asset value since March 31, and not asset value for the group of around 80p.

Perhaps an even more fundamental question is what we mean by national wealth. The simplest definition is the total sum that will be obtained if every individual and organization resident in the United Kingdom, including companies and government bodies, estimated the current net asset value of its assets and liabilities. (This will be the same as the total value of everything in the United Kingdom, plus the difference between our overseas investments and the amount that overseas residents have invested in us.)

J. Revell and A. R. Roe have published estimates showing that this figure rose from £60,000m in 1957 to £140,000m in 1966. Since then, property values, the value of national wealth, have risen sharply.

A study which I conducted for the stockbrokers Sandelson and Company, which has just been published, shows that the total wealth of the United Kingdom is approximately £400,000m. Those who are worried about Arab oil shakings buying up the country should take comfort from the fact that even if the OPEC countries used the whole of our oil deficit to buy assets, it would still take more than five years before they had acquired as much as 3 per cent of the present total.

Even though the total value of the United Kingdom has probably declined since March, this should not affect the nature of the conclusions reached in this article.

The physical assets on which the wealth of the United Kingdom is based are shown in the table. Besides the figures in this table, we have a surplus on our overseas investment and a number of other assets which have not been specifically valued. The chief of these is the value of our energy resources.

In figure one I have attempted a rough split between assets directly associated with production and the remainder. It will be seen that two fifths of the wealth of the United Kingdom is invested in dwellings and only half has any important influence on our gross national product. These figures might be borne in mind when considering investment priorities.

A natural question is "Who owns this wealth?" One of the most surprising conclusions from my study is that a large proportion of our national wealth is not really owned by anyone at all.

The main component of this "unowned wealth" is the assets of companies in theory owned by government—the public sector gained wealth from private individuals at a rate of 21 per cent per annum.

Since then the rate has slowed down but "redistribution" still continues at about 1 per cent per annum.

It is difficult to see why we should strain at the gnat of a wealth tax which will yield less than £500m when we have already swallowed the camel of inflationary policies which redistribute wealth at a rate which is more than six times as great.

As we have seen, public ownership of wealth has been growing at the expense of the personal sector. In addition, the distribution of private wealth has been becoming more equal. The wealth tax Green Paper, for example, shows that the share owned by the most wealthy 5 per cent of the population fell from

position where the market value of the national debt exceeded the value of publicly owned assets. From then until 1966—largely under a Conservative Government—the public sector gained wealth from private individuals at a rate of 21 per cent per annum.

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position where the market value of the national debt exceeded the value of publicly owned assets. From then until 1966—largely under a Conservative Government—the public sector gained wealth from private individuals at a rate of 21 per cent per annum.

In many respects the present American coal industry dispute, which threatens to do great damage to the United States economy, is a test of strength for Mr. Miller, President of the United Mine Workers' Union (UMW).

For years the UMW was led by men of immense power, and corruption was widespread. A rebellion was started to oust the established leadership and it ended in murder. Mr. Joseph "Joe" Yablonski sought to overthrow Mr. W. A. "Tony" Boyle, UMW President, and he was killed.

Mr. Boyle is now serving a life sentence for organizing the killing. Mr. Miller replaced Mr. Boyle in late 1972 and the current labour contract negotiation is his first real test.

Mr. Miller worked in the mines for 24 years and he and

his colleagues at the top of the UMW today have sought to clean-up and democratize the union. They enjoy strong rank-and-file support, but their position has been weakened by many people who rose to positions of influence in the union under Mr. Boyle are still in power.

But Mr. Miller, who is 51 and who had to retire from the mines because of ill-health, is after much more in the negotiations than just financial benefits. He is determined to greatly improve safety in the mines and the lot of pensioners. There are more than 90,000 retired miners in the UMW today.

Mr. Miller is also determined to break the autocratic attitude of the mineowners and win agreement on such matters as independent arbitration of mine disputes and the right of miners to strike over local grievances.

But the mine owners also view the new contract as something out of the ordinary. Their relationship with the UMW has deteriorated over the years and they have had to face an increasing number of unofficial strikes.

There were more than 1,500 wildcat strikes in the coal mines in 1973 alone. Mine owners admit that industrial relations have reached an almost unworkable state and they hope that the current contract negotiations can pave the way for a new era of effective cooperation.

The talks on the new contract started in early September, but they have gone on so far long because of the vast collection of more than 200 specific demands put forward by the union and because of the negotiating inexperience of Mr. Miller and his colleagues.

The strike will only end after the rank-and-file miners have agreed to the new contract in a ballot. This is the first time in the union's 80 year history that the miners have been directly consulted in this way on a new contract.

This ratification process is part of Mr. Miller's union reforms and the degree of approval the contract obtains from the 125,000 active miners in the UMW will reflect the degree of support that Mr. Miller now enjoys.

A tentative settlement has been agreed, which involves big benefits for the miners, including substantial pay increases and significant improvements in working conditions and pensions.

The coming week will see whether this settlement meets with widespread support from

the miners. Mr. Miller has already had considerable difficulty in selling this settlement to the national bargaining council of his own union.

But should the tentative settlement reached by Mr. Miller be rejected by the miners, there is a danger that President Ford will get impatient and seek to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act. By this means the strike will be declared unlawful and an official 30 day cooling-off period will be started. The danger here is that this action will open old wounds in this industry.

As things now stand, there is a good chance that the miners will accept the new settlement and the strike should then end within the next weeks.

Frank Vogel

## Big test for U.S. mine workers' president

## The changing face of wealth

PHYSICAL ASSETS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Type of Asset	Value £1,000m	% of total
Directly productive		
Agricultural & forest land	22	6
Commercial property	56	15
Industrial property	19	5
Plant and equipment	57	15
Stocks	21	6
Total directly productive	175	46
Partly productive		
Other property	18	5
Public works	15	4
Total partly productive	33	9
Not directly productive		
Dwelling houses	160	42
Consumer durables	17	4
Total not directly productive	177	45
TOTAL physical assets	378	100

Figure one

proportion of our national wealth is not really owned by anyone at all.

The main component of this "unowned wealth" is the assets of companies in theory owned by government—the public sector gained wealth from private individuals at a rate of 21 per cent per annum.

Since then the rate has slowed down but "redistribution" still continues at about 1 per cent per annum.

It is difficult to see why we should strain at the gnat of a wealth tax which will yield less than £500m when we have already swallowed the camel of inflationary policies which redistribute wealth at a rate which is more than six times as great.

As we have seen, public ownership of wealth has been growing at the expense of the personal sector. In addition, the distribution of private wealth has been becoming more equal. The wealth tax Green Paper, for example, shows that the share owned by the most wealthy 5 per cent of the population fell from

position where the market value of the national debt exceeded the value of publicly owned assets. From then until 1966—largely under a Conservative Government—the public sector gained wealth from private individuals at a rate of 21 per cent per annum.

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around 53 per cent in 1960 to about 45 per cent in 1970.

In spite of this, complaints about inequality have become more pronounced. One reason why this should be so is shown in figure three.

This has been calculated by dividing the total wealth of the personal sector at the end of each year by the total personal disposable income or savings for that year. The result can be considered as showing how many years income or saving an average man starting from scratch would require to accumulate an average amount of wealth.

It will be seen from this that to an average man "average wealth" would have meant about 41 years disposable income in 1959 and 1966 but by March this year it would have meant more than 5 years.

Again, with prosperity, the proportion of their income that people were able to save increased. As a result, by 1966, even disregarding interest, it was possible to accumulate average wealth out of a lifetime's savings. Since then asset values have risen faster than savings so that the prospect of achieving average wealth by this means will have appeared to become more remote.

If this argument is accepted then the feelings of inequality are due not to an increase in the proportion of wealth owned by the top 1 per cent or 5 per cent but to a widening of the gap between the 45 per cent or so who purchased their first homes before prices rose so rapidly and the remainder.

The way in which the gap between home owners and the rest of the population is growing can be seen from the fact that the percentage of total

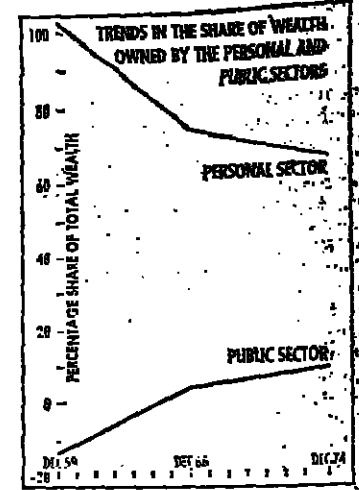


Figure three

personal wealth accounted for by the value of dwellings less mortgages, rose from 13 per cent in 1959, through 23 per cent in 1966, to 37 per cent in March, 1974.

Whatever other arguments for wealth and capital transfer taxes there may be, we should recognize that neither these, nor any other taxes will close this particular wealth gap between established home owners and the rest of the population. The thorny questions of whether or not the gap should be closed and, if so, how it should be done, are, fortunately, outside the scope of this article.

James Rothman

\*National Balance Sheets and National Accounts, Economic Trends, J. Revell and A. R. Roe; HMSO, May, 1971.  
\*The Wealth of the United Kingdom, J. Rothman; J. Rothman and Co, November, 1974.

## McLEOD RUSSEL

### "Record results"

reports Sir John Brown, the Chairman

Comparative Results	1973	1974
Pretax profit	£173,934	£1,124,809
Profit after tax	£83,387	£429,614
Earnings per share	9.52p	19.23p
Funds retained in business	£49,327	£301,002
Ordinary dividends	3½%	5½%

\* The successful merger with The Namdang Tea Company and its subsidiary The Makum (Assam) Tea Company, has resulted in satisfactory pretax profits up to £1,124,809 from £173,934 for the year ended 31st March 1974.

\* All the Indian companies operated at a profit and, with one exception, produced increased crops and earnings. In the U.K., with the exception of Brechley & Company, profits registered a substantial improvement.

\* The Group's quoted investments show a substantial increase following the merger with Namdang. Although these have suffered from the severe fall in the stock market, they are regarded as long term, with underlying assets considerably in excess of current market values.

\* In the current year, prospects in India are reasonably good and although costs and wages have increased substantially, tea prices obtainable in both India and London, show considerable improvements.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, McLeod Russel & Co., Limited, Victoria House, Vernon Place, London WC2B 6DH.

## Business diary in Europe • Slow boat to Antwerp

Today a pleasure boat with 45 unusual guests will be ploughing its way up the Rhine from Holland towards Düsseldorf, heading for a visit tomorrow to Gast 74, the 23rd international exhibition for the hotel and catering industry.

The guests are 45 "commercial policymakers", as the programme describes them, from nine Asiatic developing countries. The trip is the result of an EEC policy vote in May this year, when the Council of Ministers resolved to extend the financing of activities promoting exports to the non-associated countries in the third world.

The delegates, from Bangladesh, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, went aboard in Rotterdam on November 10 and will disembark on November 30 in Antwerp after a tour of Europe's waterways and a crash course in selling to Europe.

In 10 leading cities they will meet industrialists, visit fairs and exhibitions, and be lectured five days a week in their floating hotel on the mentality of the European buyer and consumer.

The trip, organized by the CBI, cost the EEC about £790 per delegate, including return air fare—a good buy compared to the cost of holidays offered in the faraway places where the delegates are based.

The ship sails to Holland, Germany, France and Belgium. Industrialists from other EEC countries are flying in to meet the Asian commercial summit en route.

The loss of preferential treatment has hit those who export to Britain hard. These delegates do not just want to sell, they want to set up long-term projects such as joint ventures for packaging and marketing their products.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Catel Trust provides £590,000 for Jessel write off

Shareholders in Jessel Securities, the financial unit trust and industrial holding group that ran into trouble last month, are unlikely to salvage much, if anything, from the collapse precipitated by liquidity problems in its life insurance subsidiary. This is made clear in a weekend statement from Catel Trust, one of the smaller investment trusts, which says:

Catel's chairman, Mr. Oliver Jessel, tells shareholders that the group has made "a full and exceptional" provision of £590,000 against its shareholding in Jessel Securities. As well as this, Catel appears to have been caught up in the general problems of its parent company. Some £400,000 of market settlements and bank deposits, normally handled on behalf of the group by Jessel Securities, have "temporarily been placed in suspense". This has reduced Catel's asset value, estimated at 4.5p in September, to just 2.1p.

## Bank of Canada cuts rate to 8½ per cent

Bank of Canada reduced its bank rate to 8½ per cent from 9½ per cent, effective from today, following a substantial decline in market interest rates in Canada since last August and the stopping on Friday of sales of the new Canada savings bonds.

Mr. Gerald K. Bouey, Governor of the Bank of Canada, said the decline in market interest rates was associated with some

slackening in the demand for credit, a moderate easing of the bank's tight rein on chartered banks' liquidity and a sharp decline in interest rates in the United States. The bank rate reduction is the first lowering since October 1971 in the rate the central bank charges on loans to commercial banks and follows a move by the Bank of Nova Scotia to drop its prime lending rate to 11 per cent, also effective today.

## NY petition by Israel Bank

An involuntary bankruptcy petition was filed last Friday in New York Federal Court against Israel British Bank, known as Israel British Bank E.M. Tel Aviv. The court papers were filed by the bank of Israel of Jerusalem, claiming it had advanced \$28m to Israel British to pay debts.

The bank of Israel claimed

that Israel British, which is engaged in the banking and securities brokerage business in Tel Aviv, is being liquidated under Israeli law. The bank of Israel papers noted the court here has jurisdiction in the matter because Israel British Bank has property here—Reuters.

## Mocatta's US gold scheme

From Frank Vogl, Washington, Nov 17

Mocatta Metals Corporation, the United States subsidiary of the British Mocatta and Goldsmiths, plans to strengthen its position as America's largest gold and silver bullion dealers by launching a "gold for Americans" plan. This involves supplying gold coins and gold bullion to banks throughout the United States.

The first detailed scheme of its kind to be announced by a major bullion trading company here. Rival companies will almost certainly be establishing similar schemes in the near future.

Mr. Weissblatt, who is running the Mocatta scheme, noted that "through our daily price for several of the gold items in the programme, which Mocatta will guarantee until the banks' closing that day, we enable banks to establish their own

prices to the public with assurance of the price they will pay for replenishing their gold supplies."

The company is also offering gold bullion in kilogram bars and 100 and 400 ounce bars to the trading trust and pension department of United States banks, as well as central bank-scale bars of 100 to 1,000 Mexican, Austrian and South African gold coins.

Meanwhile, Green's Commodities Market Comments advocates in its latest issue that the United States sell up to 5 per cent of its gold hoard in 1975. This would result in a profit of around \$2,000m which could then be applied towards balancing the United States Budget.

For licensed dealers Green's says the time is ripe to hedge their inventory and to begin selling gold short at current levels.

## Dispute over RCM payments for arbitration

The Zambian government and Amax have agreed in principle that the Roan Consolidated Mines copper sales and management contracts will be terminated as from August 1. But the two sides have been unable to agree the amounts of compensation and the matter will go to arbitration.

Mr. Andrew Kashita, Minister of Mines and Industry, said yesterday that Amax wanted £26m (£33m) whereas the government had offered £22m. The Anglo American group earlier accepted a £33m compensation for the ending of its agreements with Nchanga, which were approved in Bermuda on Thursday by Zambia Copper Investments shareholders by a substantial majority.

If the compensation question does in fact reach the arbitration stage, it will be heard before the International Court for Settlement of Investment or Industrial Disputes.

## Union miniere takes stake in modules

Union Miniere, the Belgian mining finance house, has taken a 25 per cent stake through its new subsidiary, Union Mines, in Tennessee's Ocean Mining Associates consortium. The first stage of the venture is to develop methods of recovery of mineral rich sea modules from the ocean bed.

NCHANGA CONSOLIDATED COPPER MINES

Proposals for reorganization of NCCM have been approved. New articles of association have been adopted and Mr. W. M. Chakulya has been appointed as managing director.

## Details soon of CSI scheme

Details are expected this week of the proposed reconstruction of Cannon Street Investments, the banking, investment and property group, which in September said that its main banking arm, Cannon Street Acceptances, was to be put into receivership.

Mr. W. T. Hislop, the Cannon Street managing director, said last week that the reconstruction was extremely complex but he hoped that the documents would be ready for dispatch some time this week. The proposed schemes would then be put in the first half of December.

In its preliminary statement on the reorganization on September 27, Cannon Street explained that the proposed reconstruction had become essential as a result of the cumulative effect of circumstances since December 1973 on the group's secondary banking subsidiary, Cannon Street Acceptances. National Street minister had been requested to appoint a receiver to the bank under the terms of its floating charge over the company.

The bare bones of the reconstruction scheme involve the conversion of the group's partly convertible loan stock and certain bank deposits into equity. This would leave NatWest as the controlling shareholder with something over 50 per cent of the share capital.

## Paterson in trim for expansion

Stressing that accurate forecasting in more difficult than before, Mr. J. B. Zochonis, chairman of Paterson Zochonis, the West Africa merchants and manufacturers says the group is strong and well placed to continue its policy of expansion. Results to hand show somewhat better than at the same time last year, excluding exchange

## Occidental resumes dividends

Occidental Petroleum is resuming payments on its common stock with a cash dividend of 25 cents per share, payable January 15 to shareholders on record on December 10. The last cash dividend was the 12½ cents paid on January 14, 1972. The board said they decided to take this action because of the strong increase in group earnings in the past 10 months, particularly in its chemical and coal divisions and in its domestic oil marketing division.

## McLeod Russel

With regard to future prospects Sir John D. K. Brown, the chairman of McLeod Russel, says that, most unusually, it is possible for once to take a reasonably optimistic view of the current year's profit from tea manufacture due to increased crops and higher prices obtained both in India and London, though there is about the continuing effect of rising costs. He sees no reason why income from investments should not be at least maintained.

## Warwick Eng

Last year's record profit is expected to be beaten this year at Warwick Engineering. Meanwhile, the interim turnover rose from £5.9m to £8.9m, and pre-tax profits increased from £220,000 to £410,000—including a capital profit this time of £56,000 on the sale of Coley-Royal Group. Group profits are £209,000 (£45,000) and the interim is 3.15p (3.13p).

## Good start at Pease

Pease of Birmingham,

## Silhouette cut interim to conserve liquidity

Silhouette (London), the foundation garment, leisurewear and swimwear group, one of whose offshoots is a main supplier to Marks & Spencer, is halving its interim dividend from 2p to 1p to conserve liquidity. An increasing part of the group's turnover is now in swimwear and other seasonal products which require stockpiling until the spring of 1975.

## BPM Holdings

Profitable for year to June 30 were £2.6m, against £2.5m after providing £230,000 for improvements in pension fund benefits. It was inventively funded in Saturday's edition that profits totalled £5.2m.

## BANKERS TRUST

Group has opened full-service branch in Milan which offers full range of commercial banking services, chiefly to corporate customers and financial institutions and which will concentrate on short-term lira lending.

## BP CANADA

Net income for nine months \$29.7m (\$15.7m) or \$1.41 (74 cents) a share. Group, in which BP has about 66 per cent stake, attributed earnings gain to improved returns from refined products and increased earnings from production of crude oil and natural gas.

## Wool prices improve with Japan buying more at auctions

By John Woodland

Wool prices staged a good rally in London last week with the March position in the greasy wool contract advancing 6.25p to 167p per kilo—its highest level for two months. The gain reflected improved Japanese buying at the Australian auctions. Indeed both Japan and Western European countries made their largest purchases so far this season.

In spite of the 20 to 25 per cent reduction in the rostered quantities and a delayed start to the Australian auctions, sales so far are a mere 0.3 per cent down at 1,212,777 bales on the same period last year.

In its weekly report the Australian Wool Corporation (AWC) said there has been a sharp increase in private buying in recent weeks. However, prices currently offered are reported much closer to auction quotations than previously.

A spokesman for Mr. Ken Wriedt, Australia's Minister of Agriculture, confirmed in Canberra that the Government plans to appropriate a further \$420m (£111m) for the AWC's wool price support scheme. This is in addition to the \$415m (£83.3m) already appropriated.

Meanwhile, the International Wool Secretariat (IWS) expects Japan and West Germany to consume more wool next year. This forecast by Mr. Alfred Maeder, the chairman and Mr. Kenneth Clarke, the managing director, is based on reports from branches around the world.

Mr. Clarke said West Europe had a bad year but consumers are returning to the

shops and wool consume

15 per cent in 1975. Mr. Maeder warned that IWS needs more wool to allow member countries to raise their own contributions.

Earlier Mr. Maeder of the IWS is about to make a major policy review, reference to the complete marketing powers of Africa's Wool Board, a report recommended a corporation with wool powers. New Zealand plans for a wool marketing corporation.

The IWS cannot be expected to succeed without a marketing structure. Mr. Maeder said.

However, the Australian National Council of Wool Brokers are not with the additional power government proposes is the AWC. These powers, council says, would enable the corporation to enter wool sales, sell wool to operate in futures and rate in foreign exchange.

From Sydney Reuters, the Australian wool industry is to overseas stockholders. This was stated by Mr. Vawser, the corporation's kitting division manager, annual meeting of the IWS. The wool price conference was held in Sydney.

South African Wool reports that so far this year it has sold 17.5m lb wool, valued at 18.2m (about £10m), representing average price of 104.02 per kilo.

## The Times Share Indices

The Times Share Index for 18.11.74 shows a rise of 1.24 points to 1,084.10.

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## MARKET REPORTS

## Timely resurgence of new issues

It is getting to be almost like the old times in the Eurobond market. Prices were again on an upward trend last week and with the issuing houses now well and truly back in business the market was more replete with new issue rumours than for months.

Asahi Chemical, with a Sumitomo Bank guarantee, is one name being mentioned as about to bring a straight dollar issue to the market once the current Nippon Fudosan issue is out of the way. Mitsubishi Chemical is another name, as is Ishikawajima Harima Heavy Industries as a candidate in the Dutch guild market.

Most spectacular of all, however, are the reports of a \$100m issue by a European Community agency, possibly brought down into both medium and long term bonds. The present moment, indeed, appear to be the right one to be hitting the bandwagon hard.

For all the surface buoyancy, however, the volume has still

## Euromarkets

not come back to the secondary market and many professionals hold much further the present rally can continue, despite the healthy level of subscriptions for new issues.

Much of the price action reflects automatic marking up by dealers in a situation where stock remains generally in short supply. There has, admittedly, been some healthy switching from notes of very short maturity into slightly longer issues, but true investor demand remains relatively insubstantial.

Some bankers, moreover, are seriously questioning how much further support the new issue market can expect from Arab sources, a major prop in recent months, it rates fall further from their present levels.

But the outlook for short term rates at least is far from discouraging. First National City Bank dropped its prime rate last Friday for the sixth week in succession, this time to 10 1/2 per cent. And, with the summer scare in the Eurodollar deposit market now apparently over, the combination of a continued inflow of petrodollars and a persisting low lending profile by many banks could argue a further fall in rates.

It is worth pointing out incidentally, that some of the medium term loans which have been announced recently were committed several months ago and should not be construed as a general revival of lending activity. Banks continue to take a dismal view of developing countries as credits, and it is widely argued that interest rate spreads for even the best quality risks have further still to rise.

Christopher Wilkins

## Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

Series	Price	Yield	Premium
5 STRAIGHT			
American Motorist 1980	102.08	10.08	0.00
American Motorist 1981	102.15	10.15	0.00
American Motorist 1982	102.22	10.22	0.00
American Motorist 1983	102.29	10.29	0.00
American Motorist 1984	102.36	10.36	0.00
American Motorist 1985	102.43	10.43	0.00
American Motorist 1986	102.50	10.50	0.00
American Motorist 1987	102.57	10.57	0.00
American Motorist 1988	102.64	10.64	0.00
American Motorist 1989	102.71	10.71	0.00
American Motorist 1990	102.78	10.78	0.00
American Motorist 1991	102.85	10.85	0.00
American Motorist 1992	102.92	10.92	0.00
American Motorist 1993	102.99	10.99	0.00
American Motorist 1994	103.06	11.06	0.00
American Motorist 1995	103.13	11.13	0.00
American Motorist 1996	103.20	11.20	0.00
American Motorist 1997	103.27	11.27	0.00
American Motorist 1998	103.34	11.34	0.00
American Motorist 1999	103.41	11.41	0.00
American Motorist 2000	103.48	11.48	0.00
American Motorist 2001	103.55	11.55	0.00
American Motorist 2002	103.62	11.62	0.00
American Motorist 2003	103.69	11.69	0.00
American Motorist 2004	103.76	11.76	0.00
American Motorist 2005	103.83	11.83	0.00
American Motorist 2006	103.90	11.90	0.00
American Motorist 2007	103.97	11.97	0.00
American Motorist 2008	104.04	12.04	0.00
American Motorist 2009	104.11	12.11	0.00
American Motorist 2010	104.18	12.18	0.00
American Motorist 2011	104.25	12.25	0.00
American Motorist 2012	104.32	12.32	0.00
American Motorist 2013	104.39	12.39	0.00
American Motorist 2014	104.46	12.46	0.00
American Motorist 2015	104.53	12.53	0.00
American Motorist 2016	104.60	12.60	0.00
American Motorist 2017	104.67	12.67	0.00
American Motorist 2018	104.74	12.74	0.00
American Motorist 2019	104.81	12.81	0.00
American Motorist 2020	104.88	12.88	0.00
American Motorist 2021	104.95	12.95	0.00
American Motorist 2022	105.02	13.02	0.00
American Motorist 2023	105.09	13.09	0.00
American Motorist 2024	105.16	13.16	0.00
American Motorist 2025	105.23	13.23	0.00
American Motorist 2026	105.30	13.30	0.00
American Motorist 2027	105.37	13.37	0.00
American Motorist 2028	105.44	13.44	0.00
American Motorist 2029	105.51	13.51	0.00
American Motorist 2030	105.58	13.58	0.00
American Motorist 2031	105.65	13.65	0.00
American Motorist 2032	105.72	13.72	0.00
American Motorist 2033	105.79	13.79	0.00
American Motorist 2034	105.86	13.86	0.00
American Motorist 2035	105.93	13.93	0.00
American Motorist 2036	106.00	14.00	0.00
American Motorist 2037	106.07	14.07	0.00
American Motorist 2038	106.14	14.14	0.00
American Motorist 2039	106.21	14.21	0.00
American Motorist 2040	106.28	14.28	0.00
American Motorist 2041	106.35	14.35	0.00
American Motorist 2042	106.42	14.42	0.00
American Motorist 2043	106.49	14.49	0.00
American Motorist 2044	106.56	14.56	0.00
American Motorist 2045	106.63	14.63	0.00
American Motorist 2046	106.70	14.70	0.00
American Motorist 2047	106.77	14.77	0.00
American Motorist 2048	106.84	14.84	0.00
American Motorist 2049	106.91	14.91	0.00
American Motorist 2050	106.98	14.98	0.00
American Motorist 2051	107.05	15.05	0.00
American Motorist 2052	107.12	15.12	0.00
American Motorist 2053	107.19	15.19	0.00
American Motorist 2054	107.26	15.26	0.00
American Motorist 2055	107.33	15.33	0.00
American Motorist 2056	107.40	15.40	0.00
American Motorist 2057	107.47	15.47	0.00
American Motorist 2058	107.54	15.54	0.00
American Motorist 2059	107.61	15.61	0.00
American Motorist 2060	107.68	15.68	0.00
American Motorist 2061	107.75	15.75	0.00
American Motorist 2062	107.82	15.82	0.00
American Motorist 2063	107.89	15.89	0.00
American Motorist 2064	107.96	15.96	0.00
American Motorist 2065	108.03	16.03	0.00
American Motorist 2066	108.10	16.10	0.00
American Motorist 2067	108.17	16.17	0.00
American Motorist 2068	108.24	16.24	0.00
American Motorist 2069	108.31	16.31	0.00
American Motorist 2070	108.38	16.38	0.00
American Motorist 2071	108.45	16.45	0.00
American Motorist 2072	108.52	16.52	0.00
American Motorist 2073	108.59	16.59	0.00
American Motorist 2074	108.66	16.66	0.00
American Motorist 2075	108.73	16.73	0.00
American Motorist 2076	108.80	16.80	0.00
American Motorist 2077	108.87	16.87	0.00
American Motorist 2078	108.94	16.94	0.00
American Motorist 2079	109.01	17.01	0.00
American Motorist 2080	109.08	17.08	0.00
American Motorist 2081	109.15	17.15	0.00
American Motorist 2082	109.22	17.22	0.00
American Motorist 2083	109.29	17.29	0.00
American Motorist 2084	109.36	17.36	0.00
American Motorist 2085	109.43	17.43	0.00
American Motorist 2086	109.50	17.50	0.00
American Motorist 2087	109.57	17.57	0.00
American Motorist 2088	109.64	17.64	0.00
American Motorist 2089	109.71	17.71	0.00
American Motorist 2090	109.78	17.78	0.00
American Motorist 2091	109.85	17.85	0.00
American Motorist 2092	109.92	17.92	0.00
American Motorist 2093	110.00	18.00	0.00
American Motorist 2094	110.07	18.07	0.00
American Motorist 2095	110.14	18.14	0.00
American Motorist 2096	110.21	18.21	0.00
American Motorist 2097	110.28	18.28	0.00
American Motorist 2098	110.35	18.35	0.00
American Motorist 2099	110.42	18.42	0.00
American Motorist 2100	110.50	18.50	0.00

## Brokers' views

Another week of heavy business and substantial gains on the gold share pitches has inspired George Henderson to update its two previous reviews of the South African gold share sections. It gives a warning against assuming that further rises in bullion prices will automatically be reflected in higher prices for the producer shares, and advises substantial holders of gold shares to take the opportunity of

reducing their stakes by "selling into strength".

The gold producers, Henderson thinks, are facing soft inflation, labour difficulties and last, but certainly not least, political uncertainties. Furthermore, it is pointed out that the September quarterly reports disclosed worsening ore grades, and that there are already signs of falling production. And with industrial gold share sections, it gives a warning against assuming that further rises in bullion prices will automatically be reflected in higher prices for the producer shares, and advises substantial holders of gold shares to take the opportunity of

West Driefontein as a "quality share" to hold. President Brand and Lorraine are also recommended, but with reservations in both cases.

In its latest Monthly Letter, Fenn & Crosthwaite agrees with the market's own trend that inflation—or the fear of it—is driving down the prices of government stocks with a long redemption date, or none at all.

On equities, Fenn remains highly gloomy, and points out that paper profits hardly keep pace with the replacement costs of assets employed.

Terry Byland

## Freight report

## Exxon fixing leaves market in the air

Tanker market news of the week was the fixing by Exxon (Esso), of 2.3 million tons of oil (very large crude carriers) out of the Persian Gulf for end of November and December positions.

This has left the market in

an inexplicable position. Although the number of idle vessels left in the Gulf has been severely reduced, market rates have not moved by one iota from Worldscale 40. The non-improvement has had a psychological effect on the way tanker owners are thinking.

At Worldscale 40 running costs are covered, but fixed costs are not. Therefore some owners were uneasily wondering at the end of last week why Exxon did not wait a while before fixing December tonnage to allow the rate to fall a little.

They say that more inquiry is needed to boost confidence. There are now fewer than 10 vessels left idle in the Gulf. Those remaining free for November are sitting on a highly speculative situation.

On the dry cargo market, the American coal miners' strike appeared to be having a dampening effect on rates for both large and small vessels in the transatlantic trade.

The Chinese relet market improved considerably, with several vessels being fixed at competitive rates.

By John Woodland

## The uncontrollable nightmare

It is seldom, indeed unique for this column, to hear a commodity buyer reveal some of his trade secrets. Mr Gilbert Richmond, managing director of the Hull-based Feedex Limited, was in London last week and the opportunity to listen to his views was too good to miss.

Unlike many buyers he has few inhibitions on this subject. He openly admits that obtaining raw materials at the right price today requires "a tremendous amount of luck".

However, he has the happy knack of being right, seven times out of ten which speaks volumes for his acumen. But all Mr Richmond would say about his fine consistency is that it has been achieved by experience, a flat for buyers, and intuition as well as luck.

To feed 250,000 pigs is no mean task and it entails a lot of buying as large amounts of soyabean meal, maize, barley, fish meal, etc. are used daily. Before Britain entered the EEC and while there still remained an over production of world cereals and protein, it was, he says, relatively easy to assess when the time was ripe to go into the market, and at much lower prices the fluctuation in the markets was very much less than it is today.

The markets could be looked at, and an assessment made of the acreages sown and yields in various countries depending on the weather conditions and other factors such as freight rates and currency exchange.

ence between a peak and a low price was very little. Today the situation is totally different and the differential on the prices at the top and bottom is quite tremendous and with the right buying the end product to the producer can be a profit and the wrong buying a loss.

Since Britain's entry into the EEC, however, the rhythm has been much quicker and very often within a month you can see a high and a low price. Mr Richmond thinks it is almost suicidal for a buyer who has apparently missed a low price to panic and buy the following day at a substantially higher price.

This is very easily done, he says, and there is a great deal of guesswork in this situation for no one knows how high the price can go, and there is also an added political factor (which did not apply three or four years ago) where particularly in America the constant threat of embargoes, the reports on crops which one minute are good and the next bad, the unloading by speculators on the Chicago markets, and added to this the constant rumours, some of which are true, of heavy buying of both maize and soyabean by Eastern block countries.

All these factors added together cause violent fluctuations and are a constant uncontrollable nightmare with which the buyer has to live today.

Mr Richmond gave an example which happened to him earlier this year. "Maize at the time was hovering around the £55-70 mark. Soyabean over the March 1975 at this figure was always been roughly double the price of maize. Soyabean at this time was about £100 a ton and it started to fall and came down to £90 delivered our mill, so I purchased all my requirements through to the end of March 1975. At this figure, knowing that with the price of maize at £70 it was very unlikely that soyabean would drop more than another £5, but it could go up £50, to be double the price of maize."

Mr Richmond says that there

are many cases which happen like this which, by intuition, tell you you cannot be far wrong, and this is the time to buy.

Where you get a commodity like maize which has now been a high price for several months, it is his policy to buy when there is a bearish factor in the market and there has been a sudden drop in price. Even so he only covers part of his requirements in near positions, and at a later date he fills in the shortfalls. This, at the end of the line, gives him an average price.

Generally he does not buy on a self basis, on reason being is that Feedex is situated in the country and does not have the benefit of being alongside a river. He finds it far better to buy and get quotations from several shippers for delivery to his mill direct, particularly in respect of soyabean.

Being a relatively large buyer he is, as he says, able to do a good deal of arm twisting and to get special clauses guaranteeing delivery. This cuts out the problems of strikes when his mill direct, particularly in respect of soyabean, is at risk.

Recently Feedex issued a cheerful half yearly statement with turnover in the six months ended June 30 rising from £3,013,000 in the same period a year ago to £4,939,000. Mr Richmond is confident that turnover for the full year will top the £10m mark for the first time which compares with just £1,715,000 in 1969.

Profits, before tax, for the six months were £304,000 or £97,000 on a year ago while for the whole year last they were £468,000. With current business booming and with Mr Richmond achieving a minor commodity buying miracle profits will surely show another upward thrust when the company reports for the whole year.

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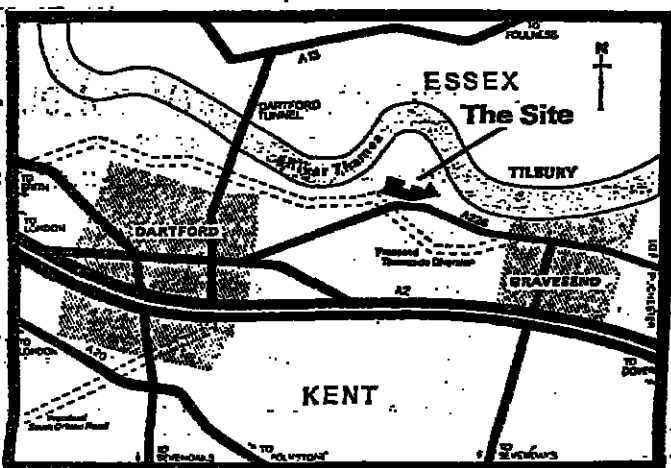
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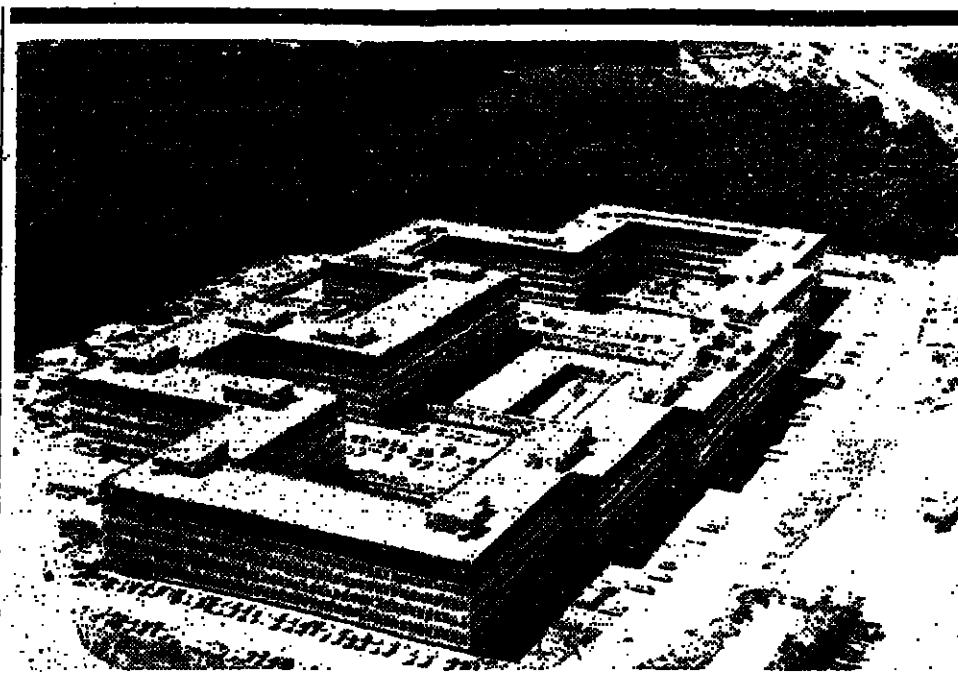
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An aerial view of the completed La Boursière office scheme, near Paris.

Whatever may be the long-term effects of the Budget on the property market, although immediately it seems to have little direct effect on property matters except for general business considerations, there is continuing buoyancy in the industrial sector. Lettings are being made, particularly of buildings already constructed, and no doubt things will be helped along a little by the tax concessions on industrial building.

Demand is particularly good in the South-east, where rents are reaching high levels. For instance, the first letting has been made on the Abbey Wharf Industrial Estate, in Kingsbridge Road, Barking, a development by Crowne Freeholds.

The first unit on the estate, a renovated warehouse and office building of 31,000 sq. ft. has gone to J. W. Levy and Co. at a rent of about £1.30 a square foot. The development, over 100,000 sq. ft. of new and renovated warehouse accommodation, just off the A13.

There are three other new units under offer at rents of about £1.50 a sq. ft. The letting was through Michael Kalmar and Partners.

At Ripple Road Trading Estate, lettings have been agreed on several small renovated industrial units at £1.40 a sq. ft. The development is by Clarendon Holdings. The joint agents are Michael Kalmar and Partners and Jones Lang Wootton.

Eighty-four thousand sq. ft. of offices, industrial and warehouse space on the Great West Road, Brentford, has been let to the Strand Glass Company.

The lease is for 25 years. The rent has not been disclosed, but it is understood that the freeholders were thinking of £100,000 a year.

The lessees were introduced by Chesterton, who acted for the freeholders in conjunction with Eve and Son.

The letting agents have been retained by Strand Glass to dispose of surplus space on a contract warehouse basis, which will provide a comprehensive service to include handling and security of goods.

In Sussex, Pambarus, Ltd. the investment subsidiary of Brayshear (Industrial Contracts) Ltd., the industrial developer,

## Buoyancy in industrial buildings

is working on the first three units of a scheme of about 105,500 sq. ft. on part of the Burgess Hill Industrial Estate. The Pambarus scheme will provide warehouses from 12,000 sq. ft. in all it will contain 93,250 sq. ft. of warehouses and 12,250 sq. ft. of offices.

The first unit of 13,200 sq. ft. including 905 sq. ft. of offices, is nearing completion. It is available for letting with the two other units, each providing 20,965 sq. ft. including 2,865 sq. ft. of offices. The agents are Weatherall Green and Smith, of London, and Geering and Colyer, of Haywards Heath.

On the Solihull Trading Estate, Mercedes-Benz is to dispose of two factory or warehouse units because of its acquisition of a 220,000 sq. ft. parts centre on the site of the former Westland Helicopter factory at Hayes, Middlesex.

The agents are Grant and Partners. The larger of the two units has about 56,000 sq. ft. of virtually clear space, with an eaves height of about 16ft.

The lease, which expires in March, 1980, is held from the Industrial Estate and incorporates an index rental element giving a rent of £7,928 a year.

Offers over £30,000 are being asked for the lease. The other unit has about 8,000 sq. ft. The lease expires in 1982. Negotiations are in hand for an assignment.

On the Angel Drive Trading Estate at Ely, a rent of 72½p a sq. ft. is being asked for a development completed recently by Readway Construction.

The scheme will cover about 92,300 sq. ft., about a quarter of which has been let. Tenants include Securicor, and Vanguard Plastics Division (U.K.), Hampton and Brayshear (Industrial Contracts) Ltd., the letting agents say that much interest is being

shown in the remaining units, which consist of warehouses and offices and an industrial building of 9,000 sq. ft.

An interesting renovation job coming along in London concerns 33 and 36 Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, which are adjacent to the Canadian High Commission and the Italian Embassy. The leases have been bought from Colman Prentiss and Varley (Holdings) by Wheatheaf Investments, the development company of the Grosvenor Estate, the freeholders.

Offers over £150,000 were being asked. Wheatheaf intends to rebuild both buildings behind the existing facades, which are protected. Work is due to start after Christmas for completion about March, 1976. The scheme will provide about 10,000 sq. ft. of offices and a flat.

Jeffrey Young and Co acted for Colman Prentiss and Varley. Pichler Herberman and Partners, who acted for Wheatheaf, are letting agents with Hillier Parker May and Rowden. Jeffrey Young and Co are also offering 34 Grosvenor Street, which has about 13,250 sq. ft. net of offices. The lease is for sale, but rental offers of about £2 a sq. ft. would be considered.

On the Continent, work has been completed on the giant La Boursière office scheme on the outskirts of Paris. The design architects for the development, which has been carried out by the English Property Corporation, were the Charles Living Partnership, of London.

The development is located to the south of the city on the new outer rim motorway, close to the airport. About a fifth of the building is let and occupied. Letting is through Bourdais & Weatherall SA, of Paris.

More new offices are planned in Bristol, where the Comben Group has acquired a site in Whiteladies Road for a mixed development of 13,000 sq. ft. of offices and 10 flats.

Building is expected to start in the new year. Lalonde Bros and Partners, of Bristol, acted for the Comben Group and are retained for the office lettings. Peter E. Soper and Partners, also of Bristol, will be dealing with the flats. The vendors were represented by Stanley Alder and Price.

Gerald Ely

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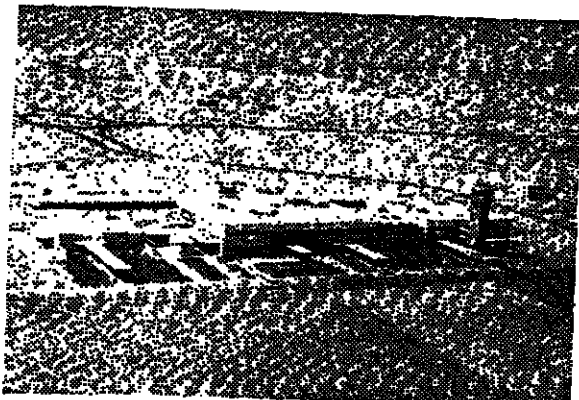
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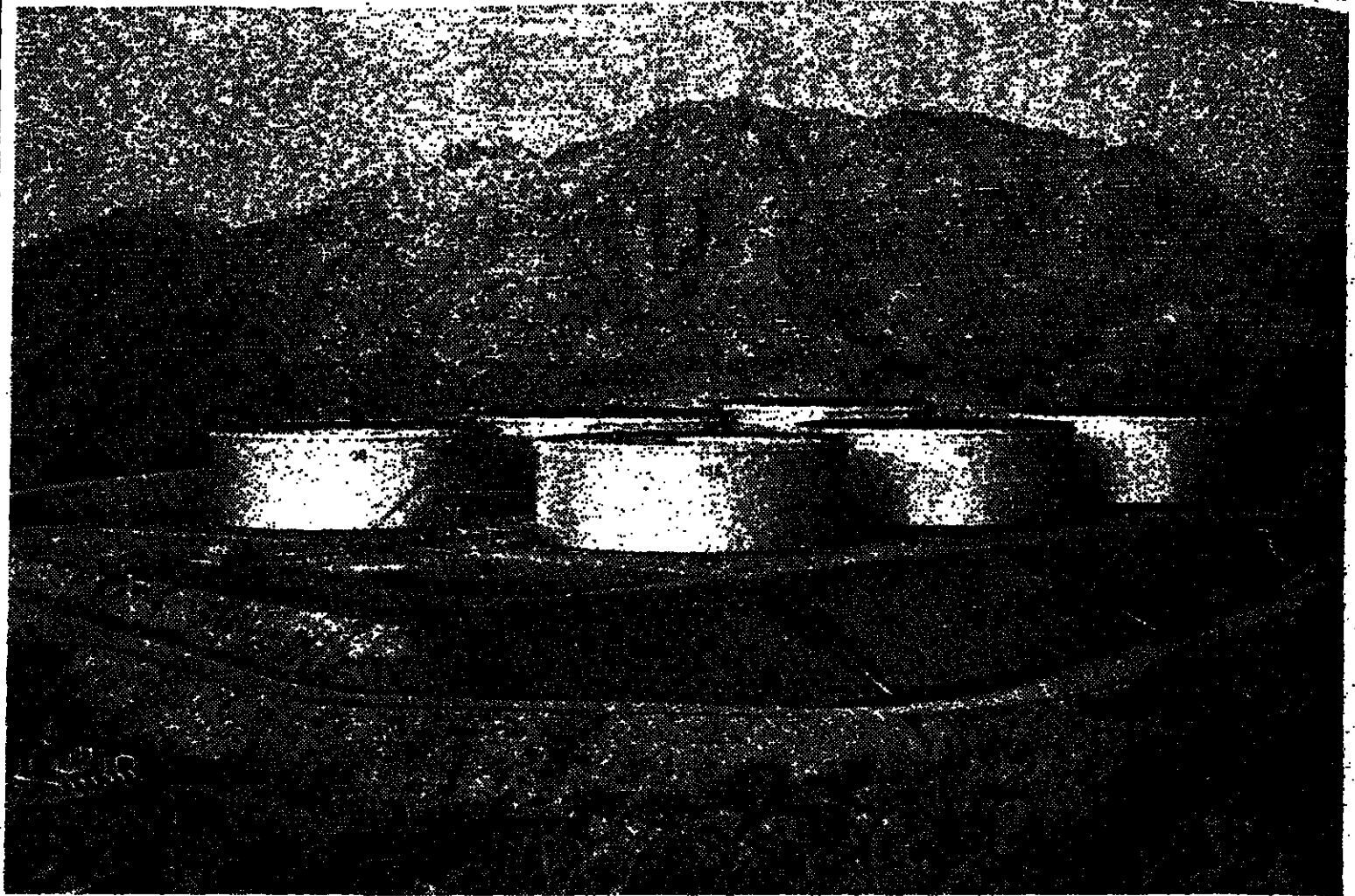
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Unlike other oil states in the region, Oman has no large surplus of oil revenue, its income being fully committed to development and defence. Ralph Izzard takes a look at the oil industry and its prospects



Crude oil piped from as far away as the edge of the Empty Quarter is stored in these tanks at Mina al-Fahd the Gulf of Oman.

## Government poised to transform economy before the fields dry up

The history of oil exploration and development in Oman, which dates back 50 years, contains more than the usual quota of setbacks and harassments even by Middle East standards, but today crude production runs at a respectable 295,000 barrels a day. About 90,000 more barrels daily of low sulphur crude are expected to be available by the end of 1976.

About 212m rials will this year accrue to the Government from oil towards its total budget of 220m rials, emphasizing the Government's almost total dependence on the industry. In spite of the efforts of various other combinations of companies and individuals, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is today the sole producer.

The Government is neither a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) nor of the Organization of the Arab Petroleum Producing Countries (Apec)—but in July this year, by mutual agreement, it acquired 60 per cent ownership of the company. The foreign shareholding is now reduced to Shell, 34 per cent; Compagnie Française des Pétroles (CFP), 4 per cent; and Parfex, 2 per cent.

When PDO was reconstituted in 1960 the sharehold-

ing had been Shell 85 per cent and Parfex 15 per cent, with CFP later acquiring 10 per cent of the Parfex holding.

With reserves, within known limits, estimated at 5,250m barrels, supplies may not last beyond the end of the century, but with the world price a barrel doubling and redoubling within barely two years, Oman is now comfortably in funds both to bring to an end the costly anti-guerrilla campaign in the Dhufar province and to transform the economy to the extent that it stands a sporting chance of being independent of oil income within 20 years.

The present producing zone lies about 150 miles south-west of Muscat on the far side of the Hajar mountains and on the fringe of the Empty Quarter.

Early in June, 1972, a return was made to an area about 75 miles south-east of Fahud where previous surveys had indicated the presence of oil but probably not in sufficient quantities to justify development.

In July, 1972, however, it was decided to drill three wells at Ghaba, Qarm Alam and Saib Nihayda. Total output of the three is estimated to be 60,000 barrels a day. This will be carried by a 20in spur line to the main line running from Fahud to the coast, which is nearing completion. The new complex is expected to come on stream early next year.

Japan is by far the largest consumer of Oman oil, followed by France, Holland, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Offshore and onshore exploration continues avidly, for the Government is aware that the time when present resources will be exhausted is uncomfortably close. At Mina al-Fahd a loading terminal was established and the first shipment of crude was loaded on August 1, 1967.

Since 1970 measures have been taken to improve loading procedures, including the installation of a 900,000 barrel capacity storage tank in addition to the six tanks of 320,000 barrels capacity each. This year a fourth, larger, single-buoy mooring has been added which can handle tankers of 50,000 tons. Oman is considered to have one of the most highly automated oil production systems in the world.

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### Critical decision taken

Two small fields in the zone, at Yabil and Natih, were discovered in 1962 but were not then considered likely to justify commercial exploitation. It was not until two years later, when a third strike was made at Fahud, that the critical decision was made to tie the three adjacent fields together and begin construction of a pipeline through the mountains to Mina al-Fahd on the coast just north of Muscat. A fourth field at Al-Huwaisah, 15 miles south

## Mountains rich in minerals

by Tim Owen

The craftsmen of Nazwa and other towns and villages of central Oman have for centuries worked in copper mines locally, and the earliest recorded writings about the prosperous past of the seaport of Sohar tell of the copper mining and craft work done by the Omanis. During the present exploration programme, workings that had been in use until approximately 300 years ago have been found in a good state of preservation.

Nobody has really known until now whether these deposits have been of economic significance in modern terms, largely due to their relative inaccessibility because of poor communications. Traces of many other minerals have been found in the mountains of central Oman, hence the name given in Arabic to a large and spectacular cleft in the mountains called the Wadi of Minerals.

Several limited surveys have been carried out during the past 10 years by Shell International. Later, in 1972 and 1973, a team from the Institute of Geological Sciences, financed by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Relations Office, worked in Oman at the invitation of the Government and conducted a minerals exploration project covering 3,000 sq km in the northern Hajar mountains.

Geochemical sampling was systematically carried out, and a number of sites of ancient copper mining examined and samples were taken. The survey revealed occurrences of copper and chrome.

In March, 1973, an agreement was concluded between the Government and the two firms of Prospection of

Canada and Marshall Inc of the United States to set up a partnership for the exploration of minerals in an area of 54,000 sq km, mainly north-west of Muscat. In an amended agreement in 1974 the Government took a 51 per cent shareholding in the venture of exploration and development.

The survey has been chiefly concerned with deposits of copper, chromite, nickel and iron, all of which have been discovered in promising quantities. In early 1974 large quantities of cuprifera sulphides were found as well as traces of other metals.

Later in the same year further massive deposits of high-grade copper were found in areas which are easily accessible. The quality of the ore compares favourably with that found in other parts of the world. All these discoveries have been made in the mountains in the north of the sultanate.

Other metals have been discovered in the same area during the survey, including traces of gold and silver. The company has also reported traces of zinc, chrome, iron, nickel and magnesite.

The firm of Eternit SAL (Lebanon) holds the concession for an asbestos survey in Oman and, after one year of surveying, it has discovered valuable deposits. The rock-bearing samples for their preliminary surveys show high quality asbestos occurring in seams of exceptional thickness.

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## Four years wipe out four decades of negligence and neglect

by Ralph Izzard

Until Sultan Qaboos assumed power in July 1970, Oman had suffered for four decades under a rigid hierarchy in which social services were virtually non-existent.

For a country of 120,000 sq miles and a population of upwards of 600,000, there were three primary schools, only for boys, no low-cost housing scheme and two hospitals, supplemented in outlying districts by 10 clinics and dispensaries. The hospitals, a general hospital in Matrah and a maternity hospital in Muscat, were run by American missionaries without Government financial support and using their own meagre funds. They could accommodate 140 in-patients.

Id the interior, the clinics scarcely justified classification as medical establishments. Many were mere shackles with no pure water, electricity or air-conditioning. A handful of dedicated doctors, with scant medical supplies, strove valiantly to cope with rampant diseases such as malaria, smallpox, tuberculosis and trachoma. In four years this situation has changed dramatically.

Oman is fortunate in that one of the first nationals to return from abroad after the 1970 coup was Dr Asim al-Jamali, at one time the

only qualified Oman doctor. As Minister of Health he has shown remarkable energy and administrative ability. Today, Oman has 15 hospitals, 29 clinics, 46 dispensaries, and 825 hospital beds. The country's medical staff consists of 122 doctors, 291 nurses and 84 health, sanitary and technical assistants.

In 1971, the ministry negotiated an agreement with the two mission hospitals whereby the Government recurrent expenses and subsidies building renovations and expansion as well as staff wages and equipment. The mission continues to supply staff and conduct routine medical administration. Three hospitals for which plans existed before 1970 have been completed at Ruwi (now Greater Matrah), Tanam and Salalah, where there is also a military requirement.

The modern Al-Nabda (Renaissance) hospital at Ruwi was completed and fully equipped by the ministry for its opening in February, 1972. It specializes in internal medicine, ophthalmology and dentistry. Petroleum Development Oman's small company hospital at Mina al-Fahl was relinquished to the Government this year and is undergoing a five expansion to

increase capacity to 120 beds. The World Health Organization has been of tremendous assistance to the Ministry of Health. It has provided financial assistance, and/or complete sponsorship of medical scholarships for young Omanis, male and female, who have gone abroad for higher studies.

The Government's health budget is now well in excess of £2m. To shelter the needy, about 200 low-cost houses have been completed in Northern Oman and a further 800 are due for completion next year. The programme envisages 200 houses annually in various regions of the country.

Houses are sold at the cost of 4,000 rials to 5,000 rials, to be repaid over 15 years in the case of those in the 75 rials to 200 rials monthly group and 20 years in the 30 rials to 75 rials group. If the buyer becomes sick or unemployed, terms are modified. Should he die, his heirs are offered the house.

One of the showpieces of the new Oman is to be a new township of upwards of 1000 homes for those with higher incomes. The format is described as "executive style living for the growing professional classes of Oman, as well as for expatriates who will be assisting

to develop the oil industry and other natural resources". Total cost of the development is £20m. Developers and owners of one part of the project are the well-known Oman firm of W. J. Towell and the other part the recently formed Oman International Development Company, which is jointly owned by a subsidiary of the Taylor Woodrow group, W. J. Towell and a group of Oman businessmen.

The combined development will provide houses and apartments of from two to five bedrooms, for sale or for rent and varying in design and price for a wide range of needs, up to extensive villas specially constructed for commercial and government organizations. Prices are likely to be high. It is forecast that 12,000 rials will be the lowest figure, rising to 35,000 rials for the more luxurious villas. The project will contain a commercial centre with a supermarket, shops, banks and other amenities for rent and varying in development, a contract worth £14m has been awarded to Cementation International of the Trafalgar House group. The company will be responsible for the entire infrastructure of a new town to be known as Great Matrah, behind the coastal hills near Muscat.

Immense strides have been made in expanding Oman's educational system over the past four years. The three primary schools for boys which were permitted by the former Sultan Said have grown to 110. These include six preparatory schools and one secondary school. The number of pupils has reached 34,830, of whom 7,653 are girls. There are 1,225 teachers, of whom 225 are women.

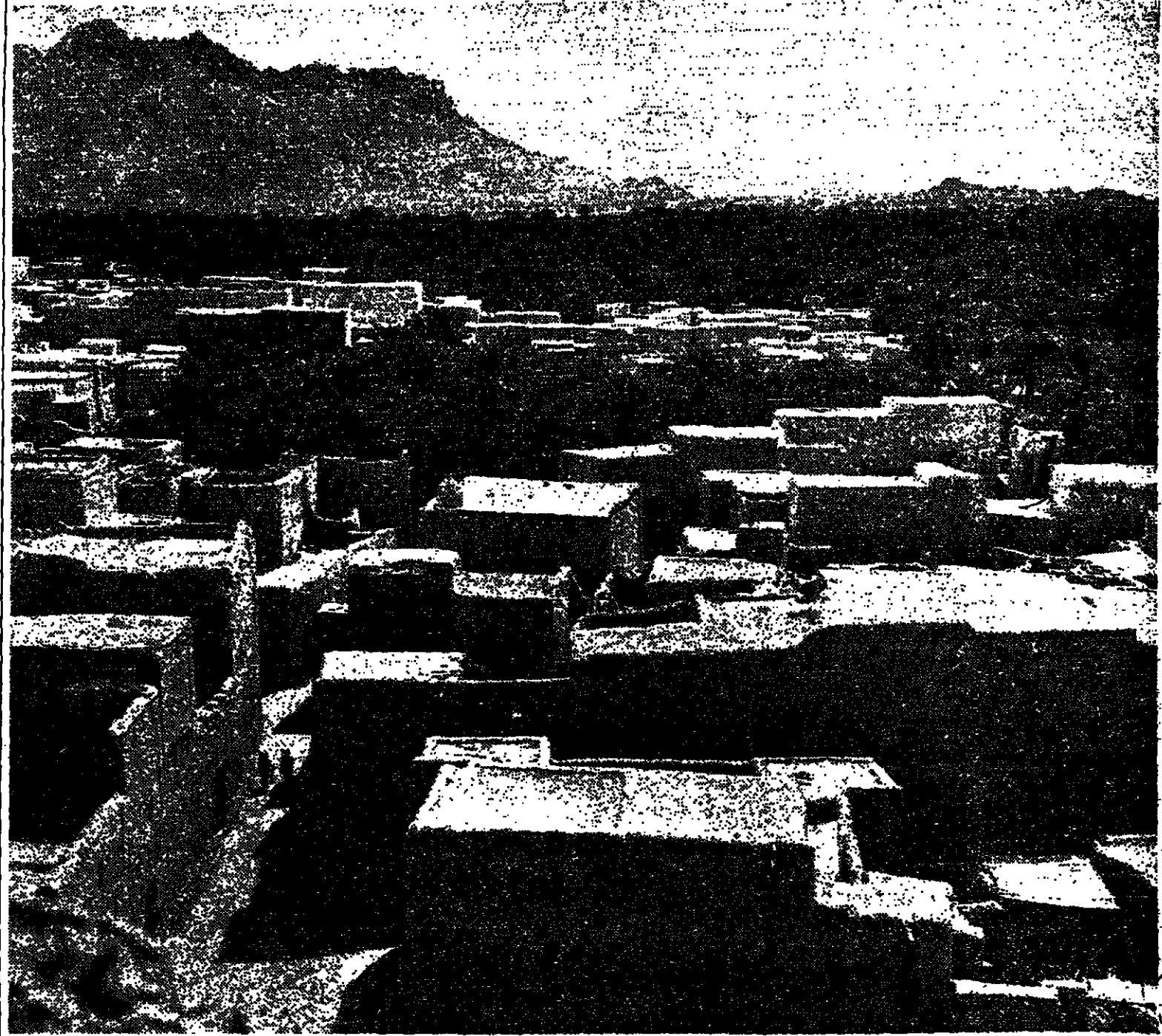
### Schools' temporary accommodation

In the early days of the crash educational programme instituted by Sultan Qaboos, many schools operated in temporary and rented accommodation. The shortage of trained teachers was also acute, but this has been largely overcome.

Students obtaining a secondary school certificate will be entitled to enter any university in the Arab world without an entrance examination.

Petroleum Development Oman established its own trade school in 1967 to train young Omanis as mechanics, electricians and welders for its own use. The school was taken over by the Government in 1971 and is now showing encouraging results after a disappointing beginning when it was found almost impossible to give proper technical training to youngsters who could not read, write, add or subtract.

A special educational effort is being made in troubled Dhufar province. This has 13 boys' schools and seven for girls. The capital, Salalah, has a fine new school which will eventually have places for 740 boys with accommodation for 250 boarders. There are 110 boarders, all of whom have lost their fathers in the mountain fighting against guerrillas based over the border in South Yemen.



The traditional mud and brick house, seen in Nazwa, is yielding to modern building in many districts.

## Building boom that left planners behind

by Norma Ashworth

In the sentimental view of the foreigner Oman looked better before modern buildings began to change the landscape. This is always the paradox of development. Those who bring with them the means of irrevocable change and introduce the ways of a different society are the first to deplore the loss of an ancient country's essential character.

Their vision of diminishing charm is not shared by the inhabitant, only too enthusiastic to exchange his picturesque mud-brick house for a concrete bungalow and the joys of running water and air-conditioning.

In four years Oman has made a start on the alteration of the landscape without placing too much emphasis on the need for preserving aesthetic values. The Ministry of Communications and Public Services, faced with the immense task of building houses, offices and factories to accommodate the people responsible for Oman's regrowth, made sweeping changes and gave permission for a variety of dissimilar building projects.

The result is far from chaotic in terms of providing accommodation; that has been remarkably successful. It is the visual confusion that gives an impression that the building boom left the planners behind. Only now that the first phase of government priority is easing into a scheme of more general provision of houses is the need for coherent

settlements being closely considered. The first programme of building included no housing in the private sector under the authority of the Government. The proliferation of new ministries, directorates and departments within the Government itself demanded staff buildings and houses on a scale that occupied fully the first three years of the new administration. By the end of last year 342 flats, 12 villas and seven office buildings had been provided and by the early part of this year the Government was able to introduce schemes for low-cost housing.

Almost 1,000 simple dwellings (in northern Oman and Dhufar province) have already been completed and contracts have been signed for the construction of a further 800 at Khwair (in the area of the airport, north-west of Muscat).

Private building enterprise has kept pace with the Government, winning contracts for residential areas connected with the many foreign firms operating in the sultanate. There has also been much speculative building round the capital areas of Muscat and Matrah—undertakings lacking any essence of risk, where the influx of business concerns has created a desperate housing shortage.

The most spectacular of the country's housing schemes is the building of a completely new town, called

Medinat Qaboos. In his National Day address two years ago the Sultan made the first mention of this ambitious project which, just a year later, had the first of its show houses open to the public and practically every one of its 1,000 proposed houses spoken for.

Today it is an excitingly beautiful collection of houses, modern in concept yet with echoes of old Arabian architecture, perched on varying levels close to the sea at Qurum—a middle point between Muscat to the east and Sib, the airport to the west.

As a scheme, Medinat Qaboos had a double purpose, to help with housing problems and to prevent the encroachment of the old city of Muscat.

The pressure of new business concerns arriving in Oman had meant that Muscat, as the capital, was being fatally disfigured. It was hoped that the new town would divert the building pressure and eventually coax the resettlement of offices.

So far, the housing side has been outstandingly successful, even with buying prices at upwards of £50,000, but the business area has yet to be developed.

By any standards the houses at Medinat Qaboos, designed as a split scheme with different architectural styles, which have a pleasing symmetry, have left their mark in the fortresses and watch-towers, but there are also many

fine old mansions standing, in Muscat and Subar, that were built Portuguese plan and finished later by rich chieftains.

The five remaining houses of Muscat are to have been conserved much earlier on a plan but are now regarded as having been constructed in the early with Indian as well as Portuguese influences id able.

The nomadic people, those of very low income, have always built shelters of wattle and mud and from the date they are still very much evidence on the edges of the town. Modern structures are, provide interest for the intricacy of their work. Different tribes show features for the patterning the stems and the way the

usually a pleasing pit in contrast to the towns which follow the card of packing cases building sites.

New regulations have been made to control development of obviously unsuitably random settlements and Oman is having to find new ways of finding space for a house. The of land is generously—even for 1 ness premises land is cost a nominal amount—the type of house put up on it is now the concern of municipal authority in a way unknown before the present regime.

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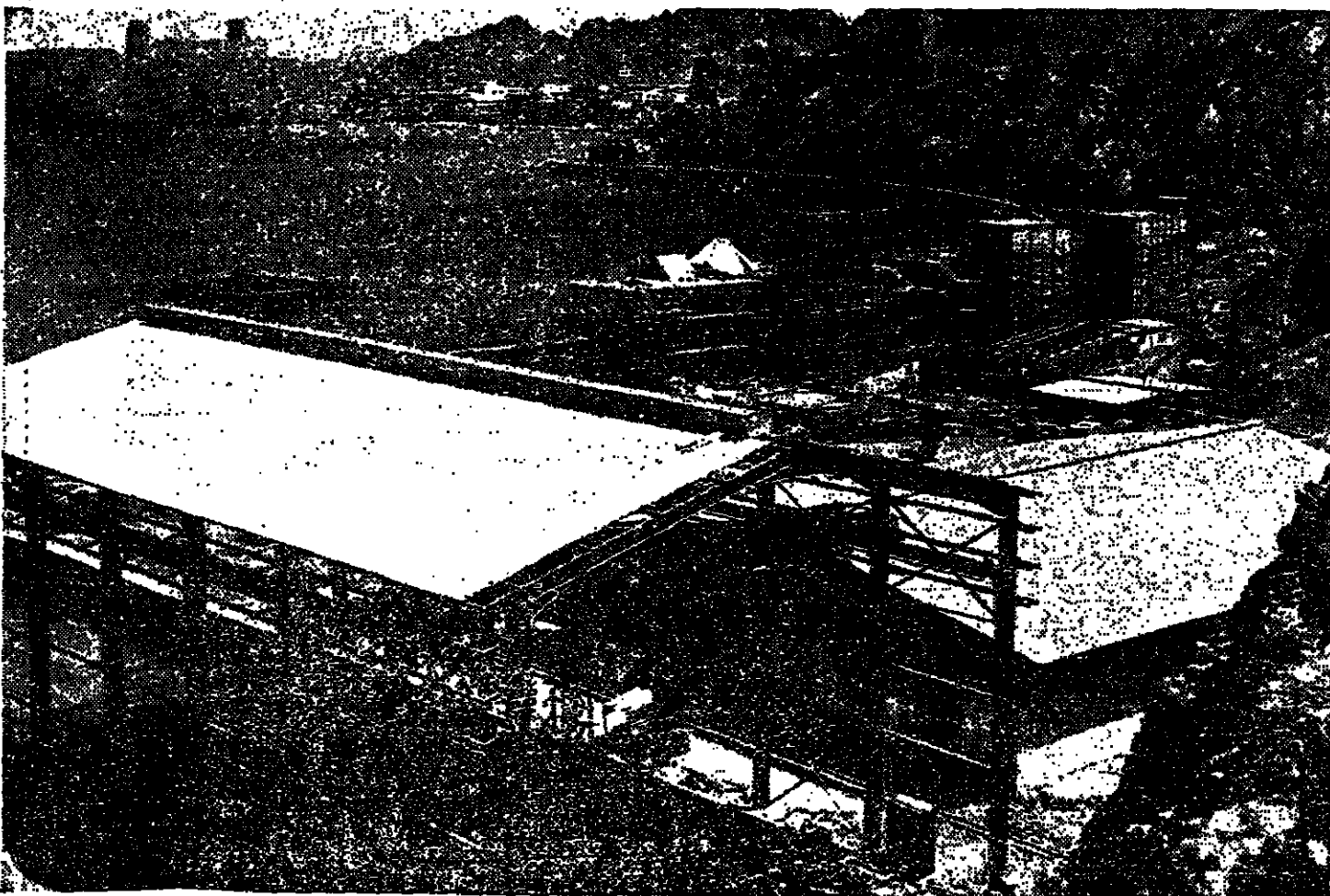
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## companies play vital role in developing nation

which amounted to £125m a year but which ceased in 1967 as the oil revenues started to accrue. From this subsidy the arms, equipment and transport for the Sultan's Armed Forces were purchased through the Crown Agents in London. Now Britain is the biggest supplier of military equipment, including naval and air force to the SAF which has greatly expanded since Sultan Qaboos came to power in 1970.

British exports to Oman have risen sharply since 1967, and reflect the prosperity which has come to the country, particularly since the rapid expansion of the economy which started in 1970. In the years from 1963 to 1967 British exports to Oman rose from 1.2m to 2.3m. By end of 1973 they had risen to £22.2m and it is estimated that the figure for 1974 will be approaching £30m.

The main dutiable items exported from Britain to Oman are transport equipment, machinery, metal manufactures, and iron and steel. In 1973 transport equipment valued at nearly £7m accounted for 30 per cent of British exports to Oman. These consisted mostly of Bedford trucks, Range Rovers and Land Rovers, many of which are ordered by the SAF, though many also go to commercial users for trade in the interior where road conditions are still poor. Unhappily Britain has not shared in the boom in cars, where the market has been almost entirely seized by the Japanese.

A British car is a rare sight in Oman. Exports of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances at just

over £3m accounted for just over 13 per cent, and other machinery at slightly under £2m for 12 per cent. Iron and steel, another major British export, were worth £1.5m or almost 7 per cent of British total exports to Oman.

It has not been possible to give an entirely accurate assessment of British exports to Oman, as the Omani authorities have only recorded the imports which are dutiable, these being mainly consumer goods. All imports for government departments, public sector projects and Petroleum Development (Oman) are non-dutiable. This accounts for a big slice of the imports. It is hoped that from January the Omani authorities will publish full details of all imports from which a clearer and more accurate picture will emerge.

In assessing British trade with Oman there are important factors other than the straightforward export of manufactured goods and other materials which must be taken into consideration. British firms and consultants have major contracts in many spheres of the current development programme, which includes building projects, road and airfield construction, and radio and television.

The biggest single item of the development programme is the development plan for the twin townships of Muscat and Ma'arah. For this John R. Harris are the architects, Scott Wilson Kierpatrick are the consulting engineers and Widney & Trollope the quantity surveyors. Richard Costain built the £1.8m stadium outside the capital where today's National Day celebrations will be held.

Sir William Halcrow & Partners are the consulting engineers for the great new port of Mina Qaboos with its eight deepwater berths at Ma'arah which is approaching completion. The new dual carriageway sea road at Ma'arah which was completed in 1973 had Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co as its contractors.

Happily, the old walled town of Muscat is to have its attractiveness ensured by a £5m restoration programme the contractors for which are Taylor Woodrow Towell, a company recently formed by Taylor Woodrow International and W. J. Towell of Oman. The same group is involved in a £20m contract designed to take the pressure off existing built-up areas by building a new town at Qurum near Muscat. This new town is being built to the design of Michael Brashier Associates, the London architects.

In Dhufar a five-year programme for the modernization of the town of Salalah has been announced, and an order from Oman for a Raptor low-level anti-missile system worth £47m.

Earlier Oman announced that it had ordered Jaguar aircraft worth £45m. These were the latest military orders this year which followed orders for patrol vessels worth £6m and Strike-master jets and Skyvan military transport aircraft from BAC and Shorts of Belfast.

contract to design and build a new luxury hotel, for which the consulting engineers are S. Sutherland Pilch of Britain.

Cementation International of Britain has recently won the contract worth £5m for a new royal guesthouse after its success earlier in the year in gaining the contract for building a new town and hotel in the Ruwi valley.

Alexander Gibb and Durham University are playing an extensive role in surveys connected with water and agriculture throughout large areas of the sultanate. In Dhufar Sir William Halcrow & Partners are engaged in a programme covering irrigation and livestock farming.

British firms have had successes in Oman's defence expansion programme. In addition to the export of military vehicles, arms and equipment already mentioned, the British Aircraft Corporation announced in September that it had won an order from Oman for two Raptor low-level anti-missile system worth £47m.

Earlier Oman announced that it had ordered Jaguar aircraft worth £45m. These were the latest military orders this year which followed orders for patrol vessels worth £6m and Strike-master jets and Skyvan military transport aircraft from BAC and Shorts of Belfast.

Oman's only worldwide export is crude oil. For geographical reasons on which many have commented, the bulk of Oman's exports of crude oil go to the Far East, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore. British imports of oil from Oman are modest.

## the confidence in industrial future

development in had to make a slow when Sultan Qaboos power in 1970, his ne of change listed priorities, with education, housing ds at the top. A confident of an g revenue from oil l to have no pressing a diversified econ-

soon recognized that ce upon oil s might mean fluctu- prosperity and would y mean curbing the e's capacity for g change. The deci- taken to set up l Development Organi- which was given wide to plot the country's t soon became the y of Development, its implicit in its title e number of direc- and departments n the past two years. e industrial side, 1974 a the major progress. ow be accepted that an industrial future an—a by no means progression from a agricultural society on dates and times), l subsequent climb into ship with other oil- ing Gulf countries. In- is new but predicted g measurably success- terms of government s within four years.

first main non-oil in- ut was the setting up ment factory which is sd to produce 600,000 year. Omanis hold 51 it of the share capital e remaining 49 per divided equally be- the Associated Port- ment Manufacturing plant and electricity emedia Holdings of . The factory is under ction and expected to erational early next . The Government of n is discussing the le to expand capacity the domestic demands sultanate.

biggest of the country's is still have its in the oil industry bu- velop and expand the



Silo station of marine cement at Muscat. The first main non-oil investment was the setting up of a cement factory.

possibilities of the natural gas resources. A fertilizer complex and a liquification plant costing in the region of £210m are to be set up early next year. Gazco of France have the contract for the fertilizer factory and an American corporation, Tesoro Petroleum, will be building the liquification plant. The Oman Government will have a majority share in both enterprises.

A pipeline from the petroleum gas fields in the interior will feed the fertilizer plant, which will provide raw material for a planned 2,000 tons of ammonia and urea a day. A new sea water desalination plant and electricity generating plant will also be fuelled by the same project.

With the opening of new oil fields in the interior and a projected rise of 40 per cent on the present output of 300,000 barrels of crude oil a day by 1976, the use of natural gas is being discussed for rubber and petrochemical plants. There is also the possibility of an oil refinery.

Most industries of the future will be dependent upon a favourable source of water and this is a subject wherever industrial development is contemplated. A survey is being carried out by four separate European companies on the future of Oman's natural water supply. The results of their investigations will decide whether or not the establishment of a cane sugar refinery on the fertile Batinah Coast is feasible.

A start has been made on raising the capital for Oman's first flour mill, for which a site has been found at Jibru, in Ma'arah. The Government is to have a 20 per cent interest and the remaining 80 per cent of the shares are being offered solely to Omani nationals. The project will cost 2.5m rials. The supporting project, the provision of grain silos, is being financed solely by the Government at a cost of 1m rials.

Two soft drink factories have opened this year, using imported concentrate to pro-

duce cola, squash, tonic and lemonade. They have made a successful enough start for the Government to have stopped the importation of the same varieties of drink, except under special licence. The output from the factories is expected to cope with the country's needs at a cost to the consumer of roughly half that of the imported brands.

In southern Oman, in Sur, the old industry of boat-building has been revived, with government help, and has given a new impetus to the business life of this old port which was once an important market for India's malabar wood trade.

The most visibly spectacular of Oman's industries is construction work. The main part is being handled by large foreign contractors but Omani building firms are winning more contracts for jobs classified as "first class".

Under new laws formulated early this year, all firms operating in Oman must have Omani representation, so that there is participation in all

development projects. In the building trade, however, two of the most successful contractors are totally Omani companies.

Industries on a small scale, outside the more potentially prosperous primary industries of fisheries, agriculture and minerals, have built up to such an extent in only two years that factories are contributing to the building boom as much as houses.

The factories, carpentry and joinery workshops and metal industries are spreading in the areas around Muscat. The traditional arts and handicrafts of pottery, weaving and copper ware are becoming the chief sources of prosperity in the districts away from the capital.

An indication of the confidence felt by the Government in planning an industrial future was the establishment this year of the country's first analytical laboratory under the new Department of Quality Control and Specifications within the Directorate of Industry. N.A.

## technological revolution ends seclusion

1970 Oman was as difficult of access as any country in the world. Ex-Sultan had pursued a rigid policy of seclusion. Along entire 1,000 miles of coastline there was no port line there was no port cargo vessels could against a quayside. No worth the name had carved through the rains to the outside l. The small airport Muscat was completely ing. The whole is protected by a 2,300ft breakwater, armoured on its seaward side by 10,000 wave dispersing "statists" each weighing 15 tons and moulded in concrete at a casting yard near by.

A small five-berth harbor is in operation at Raysut, 14 miles east of Salalah, main base for operations against the guerrillas lurking in the southern Dhofar province. This port was designed and built by Taylor Woodrow International and is protected by a 1,360ft breakwater. Built for small trading and coastal vessels, it handled more than 100,000 tons of cargo from its opening in October, 1973, to the start of the monsoon last June. Plans are now being completed for a considerable expansion of the port, and development of the surrounding area. Further north, berthing facilities and protected anchorages are also being planned both at the ancient port of Sur and at Sohar.

A fine new airport was opened last year at Seeb on the coastal plain, about 20 miles north-west of Muscat. The £5m contract was awarded to Joannow and Paraskevades (of Nicosia), Dutch, French and Spanish firms based in Brussels. (International) as technical subcontractors and design work and supervision by NV Naco (Netherlands Airport Consultants).

The runway is 10,000ft long with capability of a further 2,000ft extension. It can be used by Boeing 747s and has already been visited by Concorde on a demonstration flight. Nine major international airlines make regular visits and from this month Gulf Air, in which Oman has a 25 per cent shareholding, is to make six VC10 visits each week. The terminal buildings have separate accommodation for international and domestic flights and a cargo terminal that can be enlarged as traffic increases.

Down at Salalah, where the dirt strip was formerly used only by military aircraft, a 5,000ft tarmac runway has been laid which is also now used six times a week by Gulf Air civil aircraft. Future plans include an extension of the runway to 12,000ft with an instrument landing system, as at Seeb, to assist aircraft during the heavy monsoon mists.

Under Sultan Qaboos there has been a tremendous surge in road building. By the middle of this year Oman had 250 miles of first-class asphalt roads and a

further 2,500 miles of graded roads with maintained natural surfaces. Besides urban networks round Muscat, Ma'arah and Salalah, a main coastal road has been laid over the 150 miles from Muscat to Sohar in the north.

This road has now been extended a further 50 miles northwards to the border with the United Arab Emirates at Khatmat al Malalah and Aswad. It links with the UAE's main road system leading through Fujairah and Sharjah to Dubai, with its great port, and Abu Dhabi. Sohar is now being connected by a tarmac road inland to Buraimi and Al Ain, in Abu Dhabi state, a difficult project which will take 100 more years to complete. From Al Ain, Abu Dhabi town is now easily reached within 100 minutes.

From Seeb, another major project under construction will give access to Nizwa in the interior which will ultimately be continued to Ibbi and thence to Buraimi and Al Ain.

A special road-building effort is being made in Dhofar province, not purely for strategic military purposes, but also as part of the Government's "hearts and minds" policy to win over remote villages by bringing in supplies, providing health and other services and giving the inhabitants easier access to local markets for their produce.

This year a 36-mile road has been completed from Port Raysut, passing Salalah and Ma'arah, and terminating at the village of Tsaah, which for long had been considered hostile.

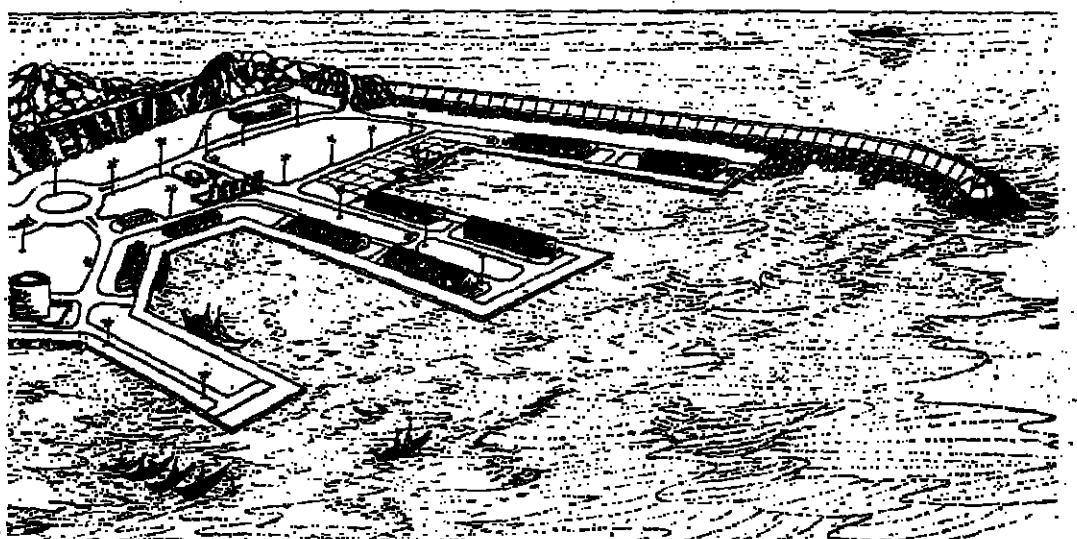
At the end of 1970, five months after Sultan Qaboos had taken over power, there were only 840 registered motor vehicles in Oman. By the end of 1973 the figure had increased to nearly 14,500, including more than 1,400 taxis and public service vehicles.

By the end of next year Oman will have a telecommunications system which will be superior to that of many developed countries for it will be composed of equipment all of the latest design, rather than having been built up over the years by improvisations and additions to obsolete material.

The main engineering contract, estimated to be worth £7m, has been awarded to the Swedish firm L. F. Ericsson after 12 tenders from five other countries had been evaluated.

The system will provide a new telephone network with push-button facilities for dialling, and nearly 20 exchanges, most of which will be unmanned. The system will be able to handle all other forms of telecommunications traffic, including public telegraphy, telex, data transmission and television.

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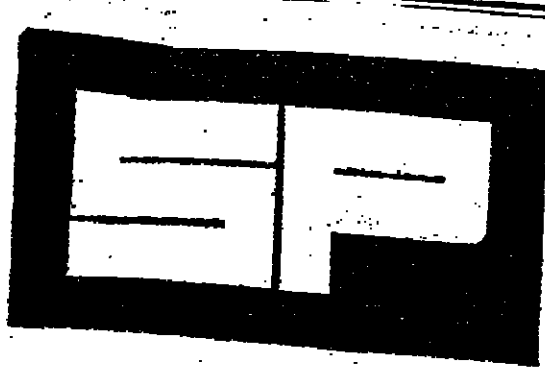
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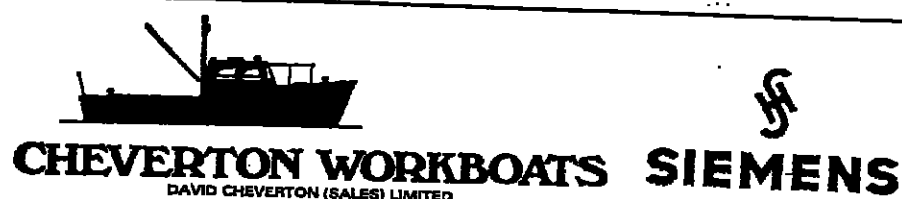
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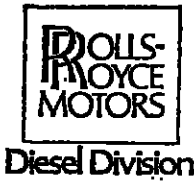
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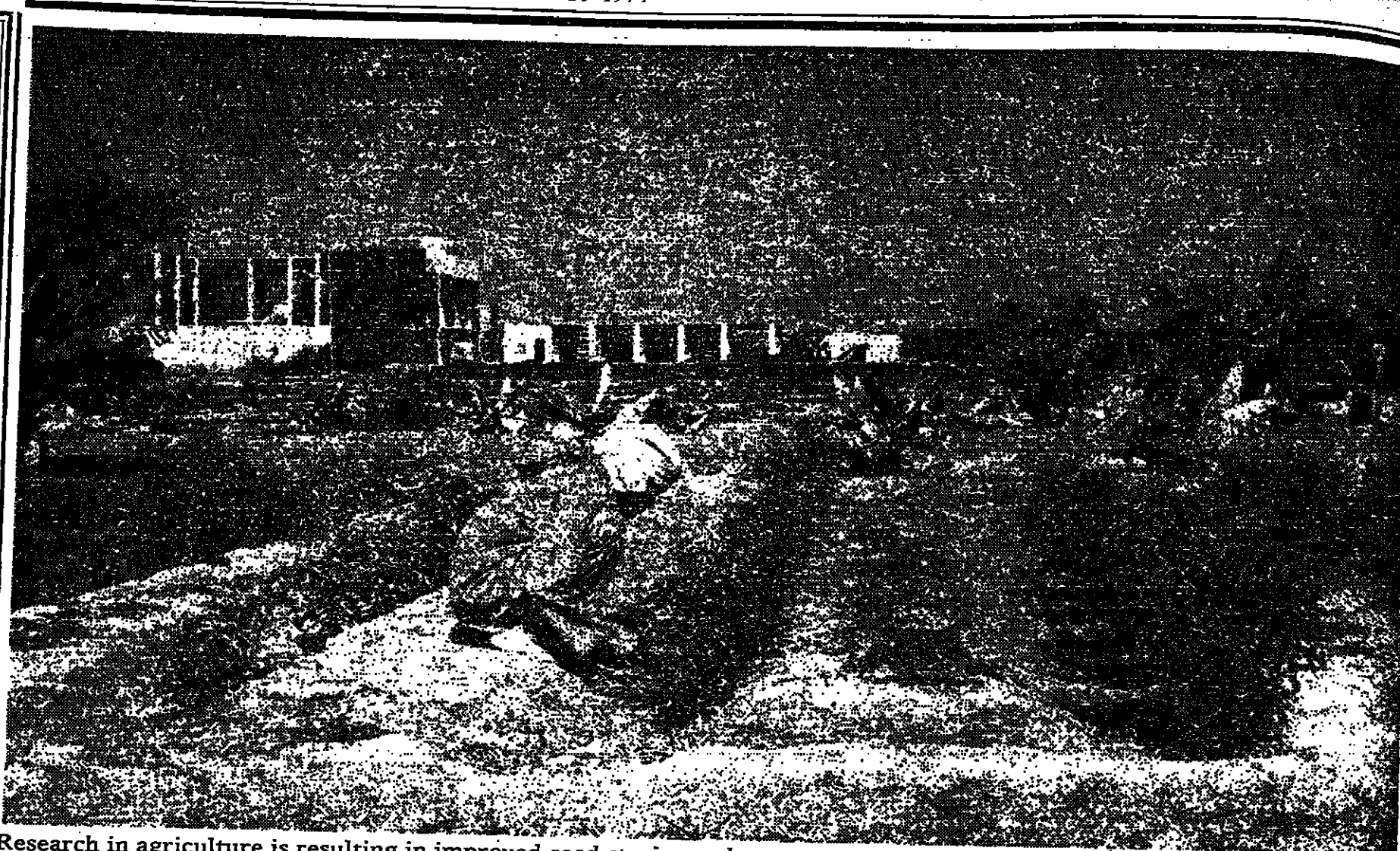


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Research in agriculture is resulting in improved seed strains and greater success in fighting pests and disease.

## Farm centres aid widespread changes

by Tim Owen

Until the end of 1967, when oil began to be produced, agriculture was the backbone of the Omani economy. Eighty per cent of the population was employed on the land, most of them smallholders owning a few hectares of land.

With the advent of the oil industry this proportion has remained almost unchanged. The production of oil employs relatively few people and most of these are skilled; only in the construction stage of the industry are many unskilled workers required, and in Oman for local reasons most of these are Beduin, not agriculturists.

The lifespan of the oil industry is strictly limited, and particularly so in Oman where the proven reserves of oil are comparatively small. For this reason alone the Omani Government has been investing large sums from its oil revenues in the future of agriculture.

The climate and the nature of the land in Oman present agriculture with great problems. Much of the country consists of barren, rocky mountains, and of the remainder the great proportion is gravel plains and desert.

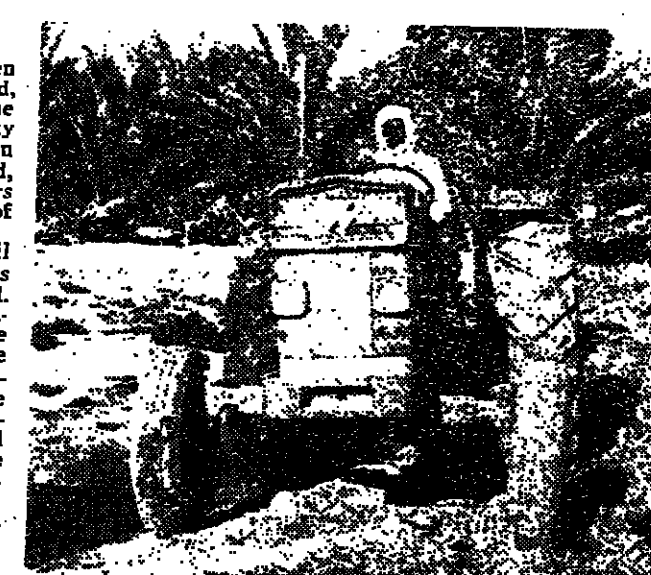
The rainfall is everywhere inadequate, irregular and extremely variable. Only over the mountains is there any considerable rainfall, and much of this falls in the form of heavy local storms, the waters of which run off uselessly down the wadis in sudden spates into the sea.

Agriculture is therefore entirely dependent on ground water, which is found mostly along the foot of the mountains and the Batinah coast of the Gulf of Oman. These underground reservoirs of water are greater than might be expected as most of the Hajar range of mountains are porous limestone.

The Omanis tap the underground reservoirs of water by well and by the fater system. The date gardens of the Batinah coast are entirely dependent on well water for their irrigation. Here the water table is about 8ft below the surface and the farmers use small diesel engines for operating their pumps.

Salinity due to seepage of seawater is apt to present a problem at times, particularly in times of sustained drought, which is common, though date palms will tolerate a high degree of brackishness. But there is a limit to the tapping of underground reservoirs of water in these regions.

The fater system of irrigation is found among the valleys in the mountains and along the base of the foothills. It was introduced into Oman by the Persians many centuries ago. Water is tapped at springs or at the level of the water table and led



Farmers, like this one near Nazwa, can borrow equipment from the authorities.

by artificial underground channels to the villages and areas of cultivation, where it is brought to the surface and distributed by surface channels to the gardens according to a strict rota system. The flow of water in the fater is very consistent, varying little even in times of drought, and they rarely dry up. Irrigation by this system is often backed up with well water.

Another problem is that where the supplies of water are most abundant along the Batinah coast the soil is sandy and of indifferent quality, whereas the best soil is found along the foot of the mountains where the resources are more unreliable and scarcer.

It is estimated that about 36,000 hectares of land are under cultivation. Dates which are grown along the Batinah coast and in the foothills of the mountains account for 37 per cent of the country's agricultural output. The dates of the Batinah coast are of lesser quality than those of the interior, but ripen one month earlier.

Lucerne, a clover-like plant used for fodder, provides 15 per cent of output and limes and onions 10 per cent each. The limes, which are largely for export, are grown exclusively along the Batinah coast, mostly towards the northern end. Tobacco, bananas, pawpaws, mangoes and other citrus fruits are grown among the date gardens of the Batinah coast.

Coconuts are grown exclusively around Salalah in the south, the only place in the Arabian peninsula where coconut palms are found. Wheat is grown in the winter months after good rains in the plains around Nazwa. On the high plateau of the Jabal Akhdar fruits such as peaches, apricots, walnuts, figs and pomegranates are

grown in the more temperate climate. As for livestock the goat is ubiquitous and a few sheep are found among the goats belonging to the Beduin. Cattle rearing is virtually confined to the Qarah mountains of Dhufar, where the Jabal tribesmen tend herds of local cattle on the grassy slopes watered by the monsoon rains.

Before 1970 there were two government farms for experimental purposes, one at Nazwa in the interior, and the other at Sohar on the coast. They did much valuable work locally in advising farmers on improving their methods and helping in pest control, but were inadequate for the needs of the country.

In 1971 two new experimental farms were opened at Wadi Qurayat in the interior and at Rumais on the Batinah coast near Sib, and in 1973 the two original experimental farms at Nazwa and Sohar were converted into production farms. Soon afterwards another production farm was opened at Rumais to meet the acute fodder and vegetable shortage in the area of the opening of a further two experimental farms.

As a link between the experimental farms and the farmers, 19 agricultural extension centres have been opened throughout the country to pass on the results and benefits to the farmers. These centres have a most important part to play in the improvement of farming methods and the control and elimination of plant diseases. Some plant diseases are endemic in Oman, such as matoq which attacks the foliage of the date palms, eventually destroying the trees, weakening them so that they die. The extension centres help the farmers in fighting plant diseases and as well.

pests, by supplying them with improved strains of seed, and advising them on better methods of cultivation. On a larger scale, aircraft are used for spraying the date gardens with pesticides in the fight against matoq.

Dhufar has its own research station and government farms where the problems of stockbreeding and the cultivation of coconuts peculiar to the region are studied. The coconut palms of Dhufar are tall, making gathering of the coconuts difficult. So at one experimental farm a special shortened version of the coconut palm has been introduced from Malaysia.

The cattle of Dhufar are small and experiments are being conducted in interbreeding with larger strains, including Friesians, to improve the local strain. It is customary amongst the Jabal tribesmen to slaughter the bull calves. Now they are being encouraged to bring them into Salalah for purchase by the Government so that they can be reared for beef to meet the requirements of the province. At another experimental farm near Salalah research is being conducted into production of various grasses and fodder crops for dairy cattle.

In February, 1973, the Government signed an agreement with the American Farm Stock Marketing Corporation for a major agricultural development programme. This covers date, citrus, products, animal husbandry as well as a marketing survey, manpower training and management.

Two date demonstration farms are being established at Nazwa and Tanuf in the interior, as well as demonstration farms for citrus and Batinah coast and a multipurpose cannery. A central research station is being set up at Rumais, and a live-stock veterinary service has also been established.

Oman is known to have considerable underground reserves of water and these have recently been investigated by large-scale survey. The reserves are not, however, limitless and will have to be used carefully if they are not to be exhausted or affected by salination.

There is clearly scope for increasing the area of land under cultivation — abandoned villages and deserted fields in the interior, where the water supply has failed, bear witness to this. However, it is probable that greater benefit will be gained by improving the methods of farming on land already under cultivation, the introduction of new strains of seeds, the use of fertilizers. Oman can make itself to a great degree self-supporting for food with scope for export as well.

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## Fish promises new source of profit

It has long been known that rich fishing grounds exist off the coasts of the Sultanate of Oman, both in the Gulf of Oman and in the Indian Ocean. Until now these have not been exploited except by local fishermen, though fishing fleets from Japan and the Soviet Union have occasionally operated in the Gulf of Oman.

A curious feature of the local market has been that a tribe of Beduin, the Jenaba, have by tradition played a large part in it, bringing dried fish from the south coast by camel to the populated areas of central Oman around Nazwa to trade for dates.

In the Gulf of Oman at certain seasons of the year great shoals of sardines come close inshore where they are netted and then put out in heaps along the shore to dry in the sun before being sold

as fertilizer. The stench given off by these piles of drying fish is overwhelming.

After the accession of Sultan Qaboos in 1970 a department of fisheries was set up within the Ministry of Development to study and develop a fisheries industry in the sultanate. Early in 1972 a project of far-reaching consequences was launched; Mardela International, of California, was given a \$2m contract to undertake all onshore and offshore research with a view to setting up such an industry. This was to include processing plants, preserving and canning facilities and a scheme to improve fishing techniques.

An anchovy vessel, the Darbat, was bought by the Government in 1973 and was brought from Peru. The vessel, 102ft long, is equipped for scientific marine exploration. Crewed mainly by

Omanis, she is being used for the collection of deep sea and coastal water data.

The first stage of the survey was completed at the end of last year and recommendations were made on the future of Oman's marine resources. Training specialists have been sent from the United States to instruct Omani fishermen in modern methods. Meanwhile Mardela, while continuing to supervise the project, has been joined by two other American firms, FMC International and Del Monte International for assessing long-term development.

At the same time practical progress has been made. In Sohar, a thriving town at the northern end of the Batinah coast on the Gulf of Oman, an ice factory and cold store for the handling and processing of fish has been constructed. Dried and salted fish from this plant are already being distributed in the markets throughout Oman.

Among the proposals of

the final survey report, due to be published early next year, is the establishment of modern fish markets and cold storage facilities in Muscat, Matrah and Nazwa.

Dhufar province, in the deep south, has the sultanate's richest fisheries potential. The inhabitants of the Kuria Muria islands, a barren group off the coast of Dhufar, have long made a living from the sea. Here the waters are particularly rich in sardines, and a canning industry is being planned. Ross of Bahrain and the Darwish organization are interested in regular purchases of the sardine catch.

Excellent crayfish and other molluscs are caught off Masirah island and the southern coast, and in years past, messes and military establishments in the Muscat area and elsewhere have benefited from fresh crayfish flown from Masirah. There is scope for development of this side of fishing.

T.O.



## Museum traces cultural heritage from the Stone Age

ations were organized from London, such as suitable and comprehensive photographic coverage of the whole country.

Conservation of the artefacts collected at the Muscat office of Mr. Andrew Williamson, Director of Antiquities, was also organized from London with the help of the British Museum and the Horniman Museum, while the British Museum provided research and conservation work on a selection of Omani manuscripts.

The display opens with the first 10,000 years of Oman history, from the Stone Age through the first pottery and Bronze Age cultures of the fourth and third millennium BC. The most striking remains from the third millennium are the fine masonry tomb structures common in northern Oman, and only recently excavated. The links be-

tween this culture and comparable ones in the United Arab Emirates, southern Iran and Mesopotamia of about 4,000 years ago are examined in the light of this new archaeological evidence, and carefully constructed models of these burials are on display.

A panel on the first millennium BC frankincense port of Khor Ruri in Dhufar follows. This was known to the Greeks as Moscha and was famed throughout the ancient world. Old South Arabian inscriptions remain there to this day. Next comes a pictorial montage of the strange and entertaining rock carvings of animals (some now extinct in Oman, such as the baboon) and warriors in which Oman is particularly rich.

The principal ground floor displays show the richness of Oman's agricultural and mineral resources and

the commerce which has sprung both from them and from Oman's geographical position, very strategic for the conduct of trade between the Gulf, India, the Far East and East Africa.

Oman's expanding horizons are shown historically, from the early copper trade with the Sumerians, through the frankincense trade, tenth century AD Sohar's trade with China, fourteenth century Qalhat, culminating in the fruitful unification of coastal and interior Oman under the great Ya'aribah and al Bu Said dynasties of the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, a period of considerable influence and commercial prosperity. The parallel development of Muscat and the different and distinctive types of Oman seagoing vessels are included as adjuncts to this historical display.

Upstairs the nature of Oman's Islamic heritage is conveyed with an exhibition of the work of Omani historians and other literary figures. A pictorial comment on the dignified simplicity of Omani mosques leads into the architecture room in which the emphasis is laid on the design and decorative features of the great Ya'aribah fort in the interior at Jabrin, which is especially famous for the beauty of its painted ceilings.

A large-scale programme of conservation work is soon to be started on Fort Jabrin, and with the help of initial reports on the state of the fort an accurate scale model was produced in London for this exhibition.

However, the main upstairs display space is devoted to the fine silver, gold and copper work, pottery, weaving and musical instruments of Oman. Omani silver work

is particularly famous and a large representative quantity of the best examples is on display.

Despite trying to give a comprehensive view of Oman's history and character, the museum had only limited space at its disposal and limited time in which to assemble the requisite exhibits and research. But the museum is only the forerunner of a much larger project, the Oman National Museum, which has already been allocated a site which includes one of Muscat's finest old houses. Completion of this ambitious project is expected to take three or four years, and it is hoped that the present Oman Museum provides a first step in its development.

The author is a research assistant and was involved in the planning and design stages of the Oman Museum.

## al jewelry that shuns animal and human forms



Photograph: Nigel Messon

Typical old Oman jewelry, famed for its silver and workmanship.

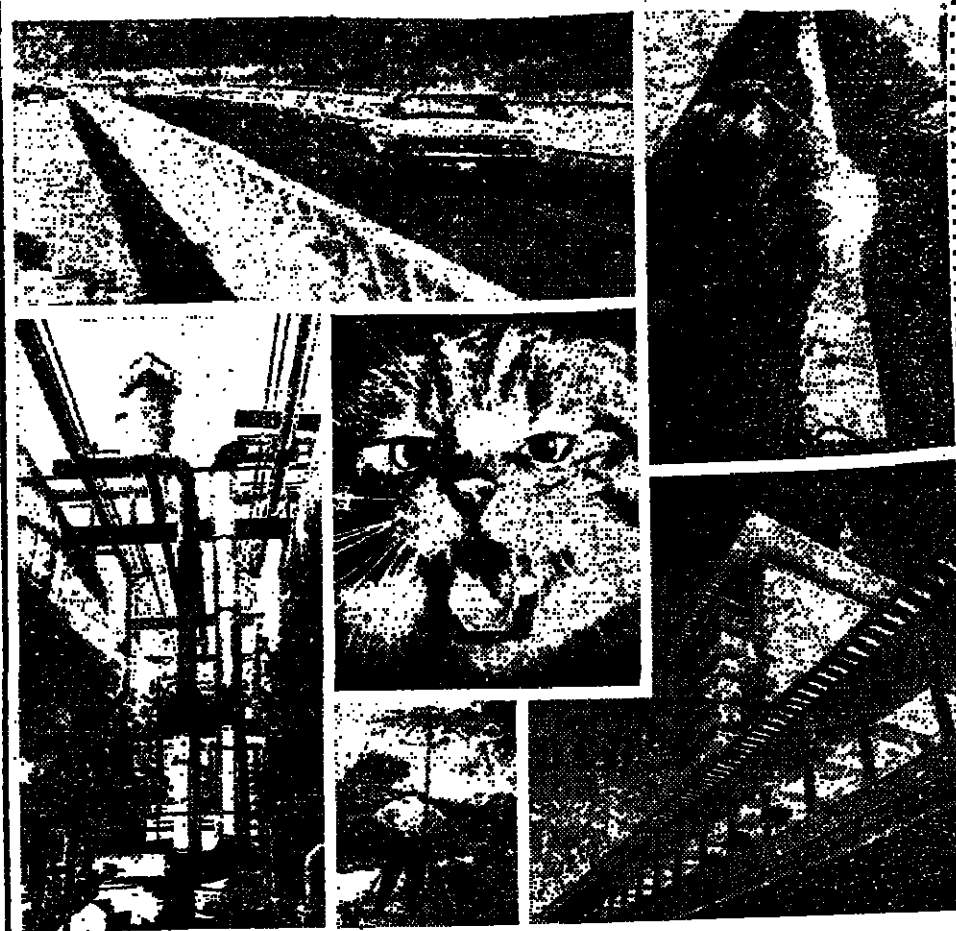
Oman's very old past included copper mining and there are also records of the import of precious metals. Today's craftsmen in Niwza can be seen making use of a ready-made supply of copper from the radiators of wrecked vehicles. Both motorcars and cars have a short history in Oman, travelling conditions and the inexperience of drivers ensuring a fairly steady supply of copper.

hair-thin silver. Small bell sultanate has been open to foreign shoppers for so few years, the inference must be drawn that the value of Oman's old jewelry was thought to have been quickly apparent. Not that the sultans have been drastically depleted of rings or pendants or hair ornaments; it is the concubines' anklets, fine silver chains and intricately intricate hair curlers that have begun to disappear.

Also, within the past year, the scarcity of Oman's distinctive *khanjars*, the daggers used as the centrepiece of the sultanate's emblem, has doubled the price of fine examples. Complete silver mesh webbing belts. Last year's best ones were selling for £70.

Apart from jewelry and serving of *hahwa* sweetmeats. An unusual appreciation of new copies has been growing among the foreign community living in Oman. Miniature coffespots purely for ornament, made today by the craftsmen of Niwza, the acknowledged centre of metal crafts since ancient times, are as eagerly sought as the old ones. In finest silver and sometimes embellished with bands of gold, these little pots, standing four to five inches in height, are as beautiful and as authentically accurate as the oldest, which have been preserved for the sultanate's museum collection. They cost about £16.

make-up and coins and, in rare examples, the pens of public scribers, are bought with enthusiasm. Truly fine old copper coffee pots have become rare in the past two years, as have the beaten trays for the cooking and



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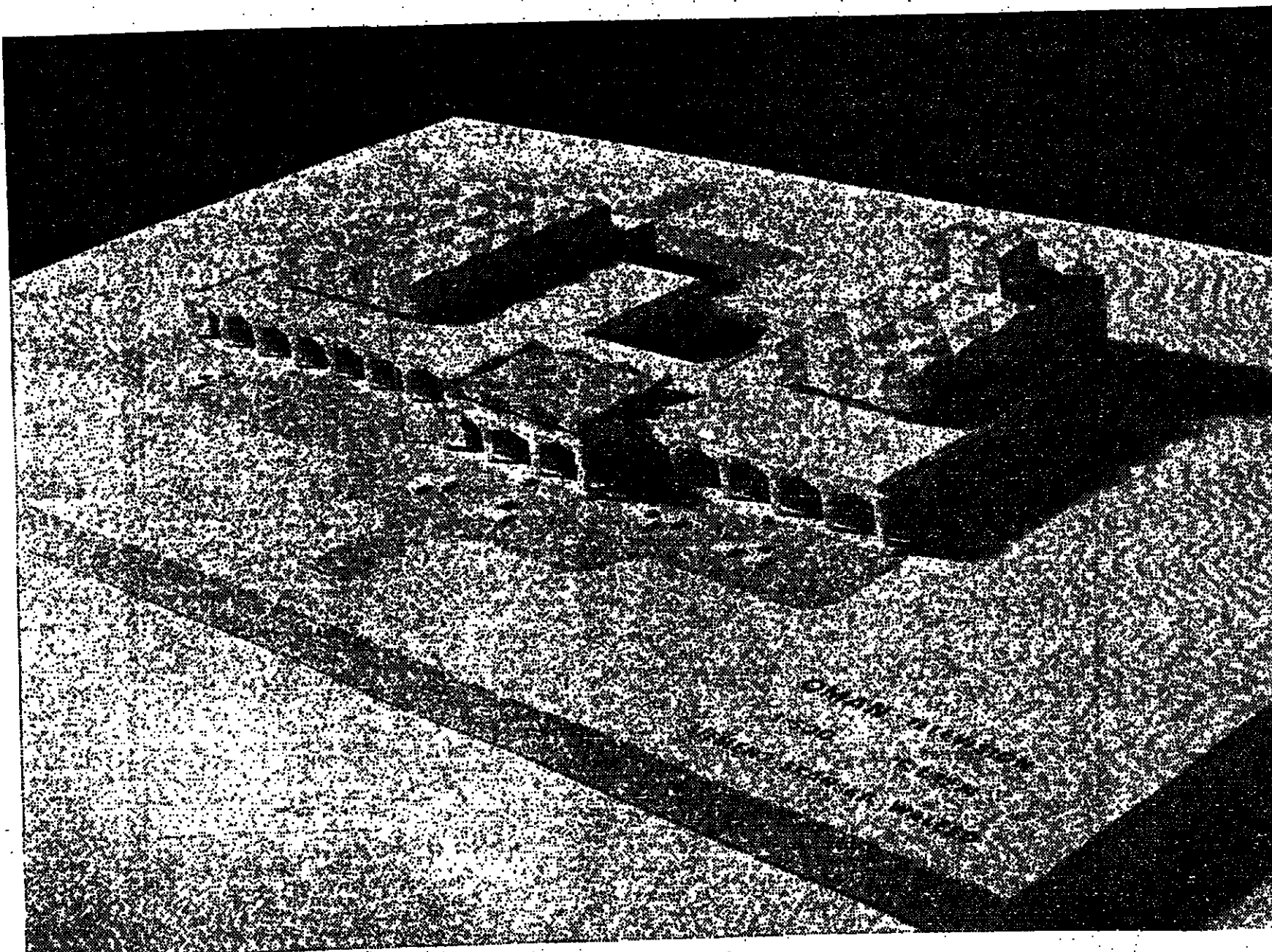
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## New television service a window on world

by Norma Ashworth

Television comes to Oman today, a precious new arrival on a scene which until two years ago had no cinema and still has no other form of public entertainment.

Houses in the capital area of Muscat will be able to receive the full-colour images of Sultan Qaboos's fourth National Day celebrations, and neighbouring countries in the Gulf will have to accept that Oman has taken yet another short-cut in learning the ways of the rest of the world. Even a year ago it was not considered likely that Oman could add television to an already impressive list of achievements, but the Sultan announced in December that he was inviting tenders for the contract and would expect the service to be ready before the end of the year.

Competition for that contract was both keen and anxious when it was realized that, from scratch, the service would have to be completed in nine months. A significant gestation period for a true newborn. The time usually taken to set up a fully-operative colour television service is nearer three years and Oman, with its minimal facilities, would have no advantages of either experienced engineers or trial test sites.

Five firms, competed for the contract, which was awarded to Siemens AG of West Germany to set up the initial service in the capital area. Philips NV, of The Netherlands, which had done a survey in 1972 of the possibilities of television in the sultanate and were strong contenders for hand-

ling the complete coverage, were given the contract for Dhoofar. This service, which will be centred on Salalah, is due for completion exactly one year from today.

Wider coverage beyond the capital and Dhoofar has not yet been considered. Until there are far-reaching electricity services and before the more essential provisions of roads and houses can raise the basic standards of living of the people in the interior, television will remain the dazzling toy of only about 2,000 people. Television receiving sets have been in the Muscat area since shops first opened more than two years ago and a large number of inhabitants of the coast have had their aerials up for quite a long time. According to reports, when conditions are favourable (unaccustomed humidity is one helpful factor), the images from Iran and Pakistan come through, complete with sound.

The cost of Muscat region service is about £5,625,000, representing the value of essential equipment. The Dhoofar operation will be more costly (at £8,038,879) but has been eased by an offer from Philips to make a gift of equipment valued at £16,000. It has also promised the services free for one year of an engineer who will work at Salalah and help with the training of technicians.

There was much conjecture over the system which Oman would adopt before the announcement that the contract had been given to Siemens and the German-

long distances and finding the show sold out will pay double for a ticket from a tour. The best seats in the Rex, the country's only air-conditioned cinema with modern equipment, cost £1.25. Among these are the curtained-off areas for women at the back of the auditorium.

A special feature of the programme when the Rex opened last April was the first public showing of part of Oman's own documentary film, *Oman since July 1970*, made by members of the photographic department of the Ministry of Information and Tourism.

Today's big event, the colour television view of the celebrations, is said to have had a test run three days ago, when the studio complex was linked up for transmission trials over the selected area (roughly an arc of 30 miles). At the same time, radio was given a further boost of power after the inauguration of two 50kW transmitters, one medium and one short wave, installed at a new transmitting station at Seeb. Philips NV is strengthening Oman's radio transmission power to cover the entire country, the Gulf States, southern Arabia and neighbouring countries. A 100kW medium-wave transmitter will be added to the network and a 10kW transmitter was recently installed at Salalah.

In preparation for the expected popularity of television, a large order for receiving sets was placed with EYE of Cambridge last week. Two thousand colour and monochrome sets are to be delivered within 12 months.

At the new cinemas, it did not take long for a black market in tickets to flourish. People travelling

## No entry for curious tourists...

The oil crisis has focused the world's attention on the Arab states that share petroleum wealth. Suspicion and envy are the principal emotions their riches inspire. It is an atmosphere likely to obscure the fact that the countries—states, emirates and a sultanate on the Arabian Gulf and entirely separate communities of diverse people, of vastly differing fortunes and ambitions.

The Sultanate of Oman is the least known of all, having been cloistered for centuries by a policy of isolation. The influence of the western world. To its richer neighbours, Oman is a backward newcomer to the twentieth century, almost the last vestige of a pre-modern world.

To the foreigner, the same qualities and drawbacks give it a charm unmatched elsewhere in the Middle East. Any visitor of tourist brochures would find in it the realization of all the overworked terms used to describe other so-called unspoiled and mysterious countries.

So far, no such document as a tourist brochure exists for Oman. It is a country entirely without tourists, where the only visitors are sponsored and all the resident foreigners are permitted to live there because of their work. The expatriate community can be numbered in several thousands, all of them with controlled conditions of work and residence permits and only short-term visas.

Nobody "drops in" on Oman and is given permission to stay. There is a complicated system of applying for no-objection certificates, either through Oman's embassies abroad or by relatives living in Oman. Without that certificate, there is little chance of being allowed to remain longer than it takes to catch the next flight out.

The reasons for such strict control are clear. There are few facilities for travellers and only three hotels and two guest houses in the country. A system of roads is growing but beyond the more settled areas of the coast travel is difficult and shelter scarce.

Also, Oman has had a turbulent history and one of years of political instability. The need for surveillance with reference to unwelcome infiltration is likely to continue while the rebel warfare in Dhufar attracts outside interest and occasional interference.

Nevertheless, the Government is alert to the possibilities of tourism and has sought the advice of planners and developers from Europe in working out a scheme for the future. Nobody questions the incomparable visual charm of the country with its towering mountains, desert scenery and villages watered by the intricate and ancient systems of irrigation.

Near neighbours in the flat, sandy areas of places like Dubai, Qatar and Bahrain, for all their advancement have a distinct sense of envy when contemplating the mysterious grandeur of Oman. The early architecture of successive invaders and settlers (Persians and Portuguese, in particular) is well matched to the natural beauty of the mountain landscape and is in a good state of preservation.

Oman's only hotel of international standard, the Al Falaj, is being extended by the addition of a tower block of nine storeys (Oman's tallest building) and by the early part of 1975 will have 158 bedrooms ready.

The Gulf Hotel at Qurum, roughly equidistant from the capital and Seeb, the international airport, is due for completion by the middle of next year. The International Hotel, also at Qurum, is the largest hotel project (at a cost of \$15m) which was expected to open next year but now has a 1976 completion date.

These three hotels offering luxurious accommodation will open the door to tourists from all over the world. The design plan in all of them shows a far higher number of single rooms than is usual in resort hotels. It was considered essential to give priority to short-visit businessmen and government officials and to make it possible for changeover in airline crews. At present no major airlines can make Muscat a stopover without facilities for looking after large numbers of transit passengers or crews.

With a high standard of assured comfort, the aimless tourist is unlikely to consider including Oman, at least for some years to come. When the basic facilities are provided, it is the traveller who special interests who will be enthusiastic to see Oman—the bird-watcher, the geologist, the botanist and the archaeologist.

In the Ministry of Information, a high standard of policy of edging slowly towards inviting the tourists in is thought to be prudent. However valuable a source

of income foreign currency may prove, the depredations of large numbers of travellers in largely unprotected archaeological sites and un-restored ancient buildings could be disastrous. Besides, there is scant provision so far for souvenirs of genuine Oman origin or the entertainment of tourists.

There are plans to develop a national park area, where the few rare specimens of Oman wildlife and vegetation could be both protected and exhibited. One of the newest advisory departments created by the Government is that for the preservation and development of the rural environment. The time will come when the tourists will be welcome. Meanwhile, protecting the country's unspoiled image is of greater importance.

... but some did get in

It is said that a lone tourist visited Muscat recently, and there are rumours that unscrupulous travel agents have sold tickets in Europe and issued no warnings that they will entitle one to visit Seeb international airport and not a step farther.

The counter staff at airports in the countries which have had to take the disappointed travellers back—to places such as Bahrain, Beirut and Dubai—now ask to see visas for Oman. Travellers without visas, who are expecting to have their no-objection certificates waiting for them in Muscat (which is the usual procedure), have had to produce evidence that if they are not allowed in, they will be able to pay for a ticket to somewhere else—anywhere else.

Eighteen months ago, a privately organized package deal was turned up in Muscat after negotiations had been carried out for several weeks in Dubai. The party of 20, all women and mostly Americans, the wives of businessmen working in Dubai, spent three days at the Al Falaj Hotel and hired taxis

for their sightseeing—a combination of expenses which prompted the comment from one that she had just travelled to London and back for not much more.

The latest group of sightseers to have the rare opportunity of spending two hours outside the confines of the airport were Lockheed and Rolls-Royce technicians who travelled with the L-1011 TriStar on its Gulf tour after the Farnborough Air Show. They surrendered their passports to the airport police and were taken by Government bus on a tour of the capital.

The saddest tourists who have visited Oman in recent years have been innocent Muslims making the journey from Pakistan to Mecca. The word has not yet spread far enough to warn each year's batch of pilgrims that the dhow trip for which they have paid a great sum will end on Oman's southern coastline. Each year, some are found wandering in some distress, having been assured when they were put ashore that Mecca was just over the next ridge of hills.

## Alas! poor oryx... where be your gambols now?

by Julian Paxton

In the Arabic language, oryx are described as wild cattle and indeed they are sturdy, cloven-footed beasts, with none of the delicate points of their dainty cousin the gazelle and without the majesty and elegance of the horse. At birth they are sandy brown and only on reaching maturity do they acquire their white coat, distinctive black head markings and scythe-like horns, tapering to needle points and eventually growing to about 2ft in length. While it appears to have only one horn which has caused speculation about this breed being the unicorn of myth and legend.

The male oryx uses his horns for butting and fighting during the mating season. When an animal is killed, the Bedu will use the horns to make primitive crosspieces for camel saddles. Although known elsewhere in the Arab world as *maha* or *wudhaihi*, in Oman the oryx is invariably referred to as *bin suala*, a nickname apparently derived from the bulk and weight of the animal, which may be as much as 200lb.

In its wild state the oryx is shy and extremely difficult to approach, as it seems to possess a keen sense of imminent danger. Unlike the gazelle, it cannot twist and turn in leaps and bounds to escape pursuit. Its chances of escaping from man are fairly good until the coming of the motor vehicle.

Well organized hunting parties equipped with radio communications, automatic weapons and desert vehicles have eliminated the oryx elsewhere in Arabia or have forced them to take refuge in the remote areas of Oman. On occasions such hunting parties have appeared in Oman without the permission of the Government, which has always discouraged them. Only recently the Ministry of the Interior and Justice reiterated the total ban on hunting and urged the Wala to punish offenders.

Unfortunately the area is vast, the frontiers ill-defined and the likelihood of catching offenders remote. The Sultan's armed forces have been preoccupied with other game in Dhufar, but a few years ago a unit returning north after its tour of service at the front bumped into a party of some 40 vehicles, which it promptly escorted to the border.

To the Bedu the oryx or any other game means food and he is not concerned with conservation of the species. In the harsh and hostile environment of the desert, he fights a continual battle for survival and is easily tempted with money or rifles and ammunition to betray the presence of the oryx.

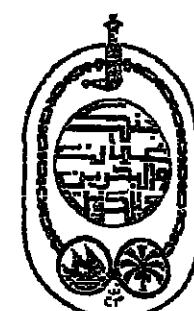
It is not fair to blame the hunter alone for the gradual disappearance of the species. The pattern of life in Arabia has changed dramatically in

the past few years, not only for the people but for the wild life as well, because of the development and progress made possible by the income from oil. Oman is rapidly catching up with the other Gulf states in material terms and is no longer the haven that it was; both man and beast are caught up in the evolution of the twentieth century.

In the early days of oil exploration, which for Oman was only 20 years ago, traces and sightings of oryx were noted in areas that are now dotted with drilling locations, traversed by graded roads and frequently visited by man. These intrusions have disturbed the pattern of movement for the oryx and have probably driven them to areas where food is sparse and starvation a possibility.

The cool season in South Oman brings the desert to life and the dry, waterless gravel plain of the Jiddat al-Harasis is covered in vegetation. The Bedu still bring their camels to graze; but many of them now have their own vehicles or work for the oil company and no longer hunt the game which used to abound there.

Help with the pictorial preparation of this Special Report was given by the Government of Oman, John Lawrence, Michael Rice and Company, Henk Snoek, Barbra Wace.



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مكتبة الأصل



# Oman

سلطنة عُمان



a Special Report to mark  
National Day and  
the thirty-fourth birthday  
of Sultan Qaboos

## New wealth brings country out of Middle Ages

The Sultanate of Oman has stepped almost overnight out of the medieval world into the twentieth century. Peter Hopkirk explains how this has been achieved after the discovery of oil and the accession of a young and energetic ruler

Four years ago Oman was one of the least known of this country for the world. It was a land as remote and mysterious as Tibet. Its people still lived in the Middle Ages, and few western travellers had been allowed to penetrate to the interior.

Under the eccentric and oppressive rule of Sultan Said bin Taimur, Oman remained totally cut off from the main stream of material progress and liberal thought. Three times the size of Britain, it belonged neither to the United Nations nor the Arab League, and had no diplomatic representation anywhere.

Like Rip van Winkle, it slumbered while the rest of the world moved on. Then, on July 23, 1970, Oman suddenly awoke from its long sleep. In a bloodless coup the old Sultan was overthrown by his only son Qaboos, aged 29, whom he had kept a virtual prisoner in the royal palace at Salalah in the far south.

Within hours the deposed ruler had been bundled, protesting, on board an RAF aircraft bound for London where, until his death two years ago, he lived in exile in a suite at the Dorchester. In a first message to his people over a secretly installed radio station, the new Sultan declared: "I daily. And now the interior, which has been stagnating for centuries, is being changed into a modern country. Soon just a

few gems of ancient Oman architecture will be all that is left of the old order.

Four years ago Oman had no newspapers or radio station, only three schools for its 600,000 or so inhabitants, and five miles of surfaced road. There was one doctor for every 18,000 people. To get their children educated parents had to smuggle them out of the country.

Every night at sunset the great gates of Muscat were closed, and anyone who left his home after dark had to carry a lantern. Smoking was outlawed, as were sunglasses.

The building of new houses was rigidly controlled, and the repair of old ones was forbidden, on the argument that if God's will, the beautiful but bulky Maria Theresa silver dollar was still in circulation. Until 1971 Oman had never had a budget.

Despite the discovery of oil in 1964 the Omanis continued to be among the world's poorest people, scratching a living from dates and limes and from the sea. To ensure that his people obeyed his edicts, the old Sultan used to spy on them with binoculars through two peep-holes specially drilled in the palace wall.

Today Oman has more than a hundred schools, a dozen banks, modern hospitals and health centres, low-cost housing schemes, air-conditioned office blocks, a new museum, new sports stadium, and even television.

Its air force is to be equipped with Britain's latest strike aircraft, the

Jaguar, as well as the Kasper air defence system. For apart from the war in the south, Oman guards the entrance to the Gulf.

Air-conditioned limousines race along its fine new highways, while the number of vehicles in the country has soared from a mere 800 in 1970 to 15,000 today. An endless flow of businessmen and bankers, technicians and salesmen, come and go through Oman's international airport, now a year old and handling 10,000 passengers a month.

Such is the interest in this fast-moving country that foreign visitors from a score of countries are willing to sleep two or three to a room in Muscat's only two hotels (a third is to open shortly) to gain a two-hour

At present almost everything has to be imported, and goods pour into Oman through the fine new deep water harbour, named after the Sultan, at Ma'atrah. Although there is still little industrial activity in Oman, except for the manufacture of the characteristic silver jewelry, this will soon change. A large cement plant, which is hoped will eventually produce 600,000 tons a year, is scheduled to open in 1976. Such is the demand for cement that it has even been flown in for use in high priority tasks.

There are also plans to set up smaller factories to produce such things as furniture, floor tiles, soft drinks and canned foods. Promising deposits of copper, moreover, have been

found in northern Oman, and its commercial exploitation appears likely. Prospects for the mining of chromite and manganese also look good.

But oil, which is piped from the edge of the Empty Quarter to the coast, is the miracle worker, bringing in £1.5m a day. It is this that has enabled Oman, in the space of four short years, to leap from the sixteenth century into the twentieth. The successive oil price rises in the past year or so have come as a windfall to Oman, which spends its revenue to the hilt, and does not suffer, like some other Arab oil producers, from a surfeit of money.

Modest by comparison with the revenue of the other Gulf oil states, Oman's income is none the less sufficient to finance all that the sultanate, with its modest population, can take at present. Like its neighbours in the Gulf, Oman has to rely heavily on mercenary labour to carry through its programme. Indeed, Oman's biggest single problem today is its manpower shortage. This is in spite of the return of many educated Omanis from abroad since the coup, and the arrival of thousands of skilled men and women of Oman descent from Zanzibar, once part of Oman's nineteenth-century empire.

Another problem is that of evolving an efficient structure of government, both central and local. The present system is a mixture of twentieth-century Whitehall and the traditional tribal system of administration. Such inevitable issues as elections, trade unions and women's lib still lie far off. However, other immediate problems have to be faced.

Yet of all the countries in the Gulf region, with the exception of Iran, Oman possesses by far the greatest tourist potential with its beaches and mountains. It also has some magnificent domestic architecture although, in the rush to modernize, much of this is vanishing for ever beneath the grinding bulldozers. The best examples are being deliberately preserved, but inevitably Muscat and the other Oman towns must lose their enchanting character and end up like everywhere else.

Oman's southern desert still harbours the last of the wild oryx—to some the unicorn of the Arabian peninsula.

After a century of neglect, decades of work still lie ahead for Oman, particularly in the interior. Although now a member of the United Nations and the Arab League, with embassies in a dozen or more countries, Oman is still a little-known land to the world outside. It is still difficult to visit, for Oman is not yet ready for tourists.

Yet of all the countries in the Gulf region, with the exception of Iran, Oman possesses by far the greatest tourist potential with its beaches and mountains. It also has some magnificent domestic architecture although, in the rush to modernize, much of this is vanishing for ever beneath the grinding bulldozers.

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Oman's southern desert still harbours the last of the wild oryx—to some the unicorn of the Arabian peninsula.

corn of legend—and this too will draw tourists if it is successfully preserved. But other countries in the region, like Kenya and Tanzania, also offer the attractions of wildlife. Oman's architecture, however, is unique, and it has lost one of its brightest jewels.

A sad little footnote to Oman's great leap forward is the fact that shortly before his downfall the old Sultan had made up his mind to introduce some changes.

A succession of officials from Whitehall had visited him at Salalah, begging him to do something. But the Sultan, who understood the British better than most, would not budge. He would not budge to the subject around to cricket. Eventually, however, he gave way. Plans were prepared for a number of projects, including a hospital for Muscat. But already the writing was on the wall for the old Sultan.

After 38 years of rule, he had moved too slowly and too late.

## Britain's oldest friend on Arabian peninsula

Temperatures of 120°F have been recorded at midnight in the old walled capital of Muscat, and the first four British Residents appointed there died from the effects of the climate. Their habit of wrapping themselves in wet sheets and sleeping on the residency roof to escape the heat may have had something to do with it, though more likely it was malaria that killed them.

Before the days of air-conditioning the summer heat must have been appalling, with daytime temperatures in the mid-130s. Indeed, a Persian poet wrote: "To the panting sinner Muscat gives a living foretaste of his future destiny."

The traveller Theodore Bent, visiting Muscat in the 1880s, described it as the hottest place on earth. The heat, now made acceptable by air-conditioning, is as oppressive in the vast rock bowl in which the town stands. This absorbs the sun's energy during the day, breathing it out after dark like a huge night-storage heater.

But Muscat's awesome reputation did nothing to deter a succession of intrepid British officials from following in the footsteps of their dead colleagues. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century an almost unbroken line of British representatives has resided there, culminating in the present—and first—ambassador, Mr Donald Hawley.

Oman, which today celebrates its National Day, is Britain's oldest friend on the Arabian peninsula—a special relationship dating back 175 years to when the first treaty between the two powers was signed.

The result of British fears about Napoleon's intentions towards India, the agreement expressed the hope that the friendship "may remain unshook to the end of time and till the sun and moon have finished in their revolving career". Signed in 1800 by Captain John Malcolm, it also provided for "an Englishman of respectability" to reside permanently in Muscat.

This ancient friendship, apart from occasional interruptions, has continued to this day. The links are not only economic and political but also strongly personal.

The present Sultan, Qaboos bin Said, was educated at Sandhurst and served for a time in Germany with the Camerians. Before this he spent two years living with the family of an English clergyman. For a while he studied local government in Britain.

Today, some 500 British officers and aces are seconded or individually contracted to the Sultan's armed forces. Economic and technical advisers from Britain are also closely involved in Oman's success story.

Trade links which date from the seventeenth century are still close between the

two Governments. Britain sells Oman more goods than any other country, although Japan and others are trying hard to replace it. Until Oman joined the United Nations after the 1970 coup its interests there were looked after by Britain, which also represented Oman on a number of other international bodies.

Visitors from Britain over the years have always taken warmly to the Omanis, if not to their summer climate. James Silk Buckingham who went to Muscat in 1816 found the Omanis "the most gentlemanly of all the Arabs of the Arabs". Most westerners living in Oman have a great affection for the country and its people.

James Wellsted, who tried to blow out his brains there in a delirium brought on by fever, found the women of Oman "in personal attraction superior to any class which I have seen in Arabia". More recently a senior Arab diplomat called the Omanis "the nicest of the Arabs".

Curzon, writing in the 1890s, describes Muscat as "probably one of the most picturesque places in the world". But he gave warning that "in the heats between June and August the ordinary thermometer bursts. . . . Those graded high enough have placed the solar radiation at 189°F (presumably in the sun's direct rays).

The name Oman means "peaceful land", which is misleading. In the fourteenth century the great Arab traveller Ibn Battuta found the people "very warlike. . . . There have been always fighting among themselves". There have been few periods in Oman's history—even today—when a struggle of some kind was not going on, and most of the towns and villages of the interior are still fortified.

Small as it is, Muscat has always been somewhat larger than life. Theodore Bent relates how, in the 1880s, the Sultan kept in his palace a caged lion. Next to this was an empty cage into which first-time criminals were placed. On a second conviction they were put in with the lion.

When Curzon was there he saw "a miserable woman" in the empty cage who had, he was informed, committed a murder. He was relieved to learn that she would not end up with the lion. But to this day crime is not a serious problem in Oman.

Some early visitors tried even to improve on reality. Abdur Ruzak, writing in May 1442, declared that the heat was "so intense that the sword in its scabbard melted like wax and the gems which adorned the handle of the dagger were reduced to coal".

continued on page 11

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5 TO BAHRAIN	ARR 20.20	↓	05.05 WED	20.20	↓	05.05 FRI	20.20
5 TO DOHA	ARR	20.30	↓	20.30	↓	05.15 SUN	20.30
5 TO ABUDHABI	ARR 23.10	23.05	↓	23.10	23.10	↓	23.10
5 TO DUBAI	ARR	↓	08.00 WED	23.10	23.10	↓	23.10
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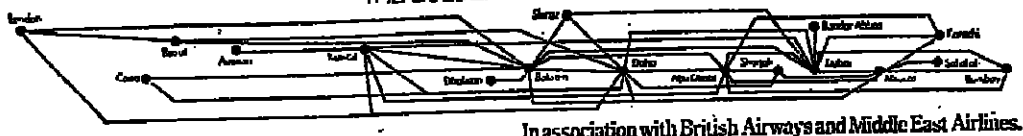
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## Ambitious projects mark arrival of heavy industry

by Ralph Izzard

Oman's economic prospects have been transformed by the dramatic increases in world oil prices. Receipts from Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) were about 50m rials in 1972 and just over 60m rials in 1973. The budgeted figure for this year was 212m rials. Total revenues for 1974 were budgeted at 220m rials, emphasizing the importance of oil. Expenditure had been set at 201m rials, leaving a surplus of 19m rials.

Although no figure has been published yet, oil revenues this year are likely to be about 300m rials after an agreement reached on July 17 by which the Government acquired a 50 per cent interest in PDO which produces all the state's output of 295,000 barrels a day. After struggling to make ends meet over the past four years, the Government is now in an enviable position.

An initial par value for the Oman rial was established with the International Monetary Fund on July 4 at 0.416667 rials to the dollar. The Government is now using wider margins but has undertaken not to impose restrictions on current payments or impose multiple exchange rates without the approval of the fund.

Under a recent agreement, Oman is to make a loan of \$30m to the World Bank. The loan will carry an interest rate of 8 per cent a year payable half-yearly and will be repaid in three instalments of \$10m each. Proceeds will be used in the World Bank's general operations.

Whereas there was only one commercial bank in Oman until 1968, there are now 10 and further licences are under consideration. The drafting of banking laws is expected to start shortly and there are plans to have a central bank in operation by the end of next year.

### Priority to social service body

When Sultan Qaboos assumed power in 1970, priority was given to creating an administrative and social services organization, industrial development and the war against guerrillas in Dhufar province.

Over the years defence expenditure has been partially obscured for security reasons and also because many of the facilities created primarily for military purposes will serve essential civilian needs in peacetime. Defence expenditure in 1972 was estimated at 27.3m rials and in 1973 at 41.8m rials. This year 58.5m rials had been budgeted for, but with the country's huge increase in revenues this figure will be greatly exceeded.

Oman is to spend \$83m on new aircraft and missile systems shown at Britain's Farnborough Air Show. Twelve of the new Anglo-French Jaguar fighter-bombers are to be bought at a cost of \$36m. A second order is for a Rapier low-level air defence network, priced by British Aircraft Corporation at £47m.

Oman also plans to order four more fast patrol boats, mounted with 40mm Bofors guns and capable of 30 knots. These are already in service along the Oman coast. Three new, small naval bases are also planned.

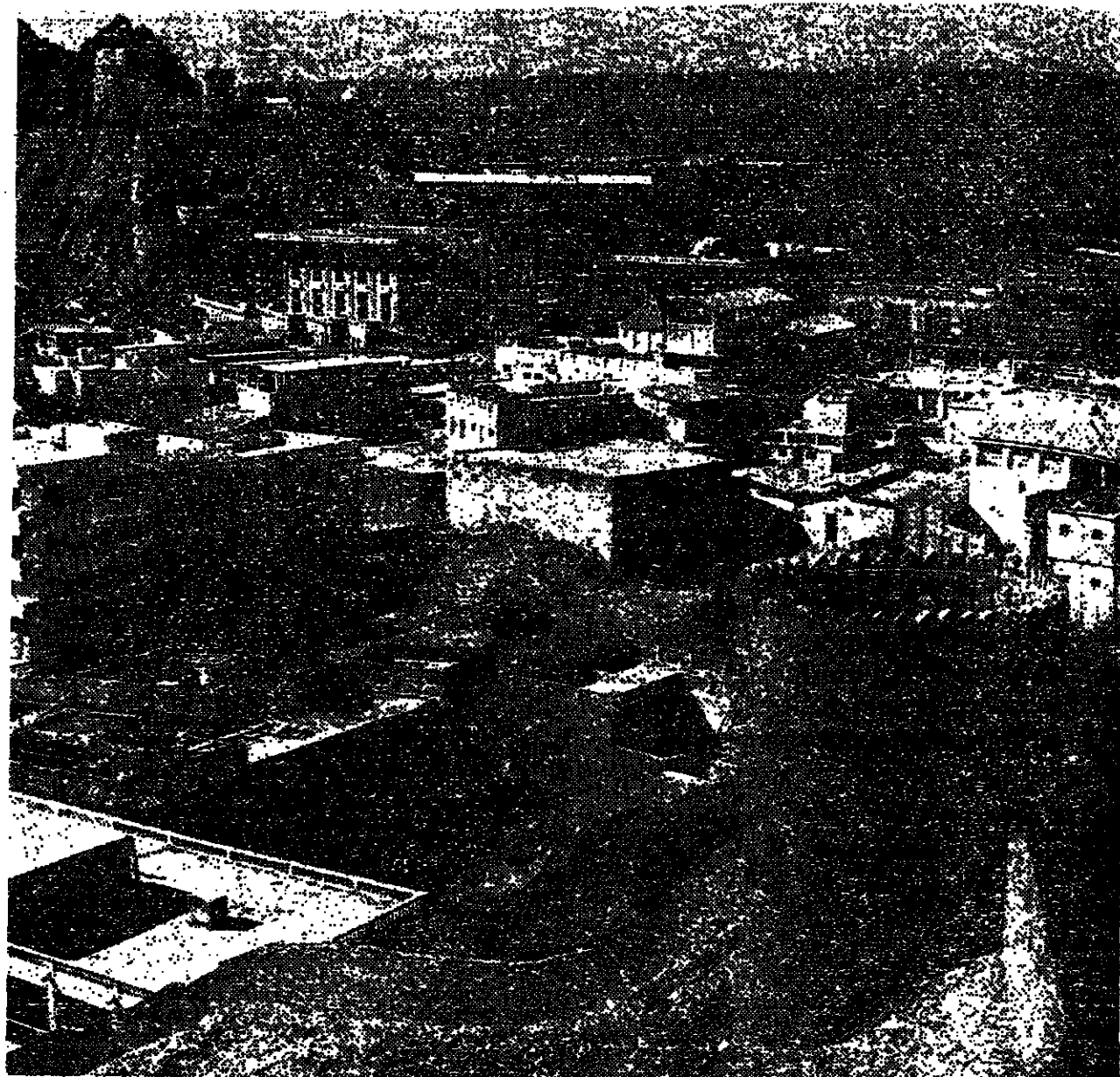
Oman has hitherto had no heavy industry but in September it was announced that French and United States companies will start work early next year on two big projects to exploit Oman's natural gas resources. The two projects together will cost \$500m.

Gazocéan of France is to build a fertilizer plant which will be fed by a 200-mile pipeline from the gas fields. Planned output is 2,000 tons of ammonia and urea per day. The pipeline will eventually fuel a major new seawater desalination plant and electricity generating station. The American company, Tesoro Petroleum, will build a gas liquefaction plant supplied with associated gas from PDO's existing oil fields, nearly 180 miles south-west of Muscat.

### Cement plant under way

Another major industrial project already under way is a cement plant due for completion in 1976. With the Government as the main shareholder, the plant will produce 650,000 tons annually, of which 400,000 tons will be for domestic use. The latest industrial project to be announced is the country's first flour mill. This is to be built near Matrah at a cost of 2,500,000 rials. The Government will have a 20 per cent shareholding and the remaining 80 per cent is to be offered to Oman nationals. The mill will produce 150 tons daily and is expected to be ready by March, 1976.

In 1973 Oman's total imports were valued at 40,700,000 rials, an increase of 117 per cent on the previous year. Principal imports continued to be machinery and parts, cement and other building materials, electrical appliances, foodstuffs and textiles. The Arabian states have



Scaffolding surrounds the Sultan's palace in the shadow of ancient fortifications in the city of Muscat.

replaced the United Kingdom as the principal supplier, although their contribution is largely of reexports. Last year Arabian exports to Oman totalled 10m rials and exports from the United Kingdom 7,700,000 rials. Exports from Oman are, of course, entirely dominated by oil, but last year non-oil exports expanded considerably to 609,000 rials from 39,000 rials in 1972. Principal exports are dry and fresh limes, dry dates, fresh dates and tobacco.

About 80 per cent of Oman's population of about 600,000 remains engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing. Excluding Dhufar, about 90,000 acres are under cultivation out of the country's 120,000 sq miles. Agriculture is mainly on the narrow fertile Batina plain, in the oases of the interior and in Dhufar. Dates, limes, lucerne and onions are the main crops on the Batina and in the interior, while coconuts, bananas, fruits and vegetables are grown in Dhufar. Dhufar is particularly suitable for animal husbandry and special efforts are being made to import heavier beef breeds to cross with local stock.

Research teams have been cooperating for two years with the Ministry of Development in preparing a general survey of crops, soils and water resources to provide a comprehensive agricultural strategy. Two research centres were established in 1971 with soil and water laboratories. Two experimental farms are studying the suitability of crop varieties for local conditions. Sixteen agricultural stations have been set up to provide technical aid to farmers and sell fertilizers and seeds at low cost.

Water is less of a problem in Dhufar for the province receives the extremity of the Indian Ocean summer monsoon rains. But urgent research is required further north. Rainfall is unpredictable; very little fell last year. When it comes it can be

very heavy but it falls mainly in the mountains with about 90 per cent running straight off to the sea. Only about 10 per cent is left to seep down to the water table beneath the gravel forming the plain.

An area of 17,000 sq kilometres surrounding and north of Muscat is now being researched by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners working with Geopros International, a drilling company based near Leamington Spa, in order to determine what amount of water lies underground, what can be safely drawn off and then to what it can best be economically allocated. The provision of sufficient water to the rapidly growing urban districts of Muscat and Matrah is one pressing need.

When the survey is finished an attempt will be made to manipulate the floodwaters so that they can be dispersed over a far wider

area and thus augment underground supplies. It is not the sort of country where large dam schemes can be usefully applied.

A survey of fish resources along Oman's 1,000 miles of coastline, prepared for the Ministry of Development by a consortium of three American companies, has just been completed after a two-year study and is most encouraging.

First results can already be seen at Suhar, in the extreme north, where an ice factory and cold store for the handling and processing of fish began operations this year and has opened up a market for dried and salted fish for which the demand throughout the country vastly exceeds the supply. Under expert direction, the fish catch off Suhar has increased tenfold.

The Government has recently established a Department for Fishery to promote

development of the fish industry off Dhufar water where surveys have shown abundant and constant supplies. An ice factory, cold storage facilities and marine workshop to service fishing vessels are now under construction at Salalah.

Sardines are also plentiful further north off the ancient port of Sur where a project study is to be made by a team from the National Industrial Development Corporation of Delhi, with Indian Government support. Results of the survey, carried out in Dharbat, a modern fisheries research vessel bought by the Oman Government early in 1973, suggest that lobsters and edible molluscs may exist in sufficient quantities to justify commercial exploitation. The report also suggests the collection of seaweeds for food and medicinal preparations as in Japan, and the production of fish meal for stock feed.

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## Britain's oldest friend on peninsula

continued from page 1



Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who is 34 today, has close associations with Britain, as cadet at Sandhurst and officer in Germany.

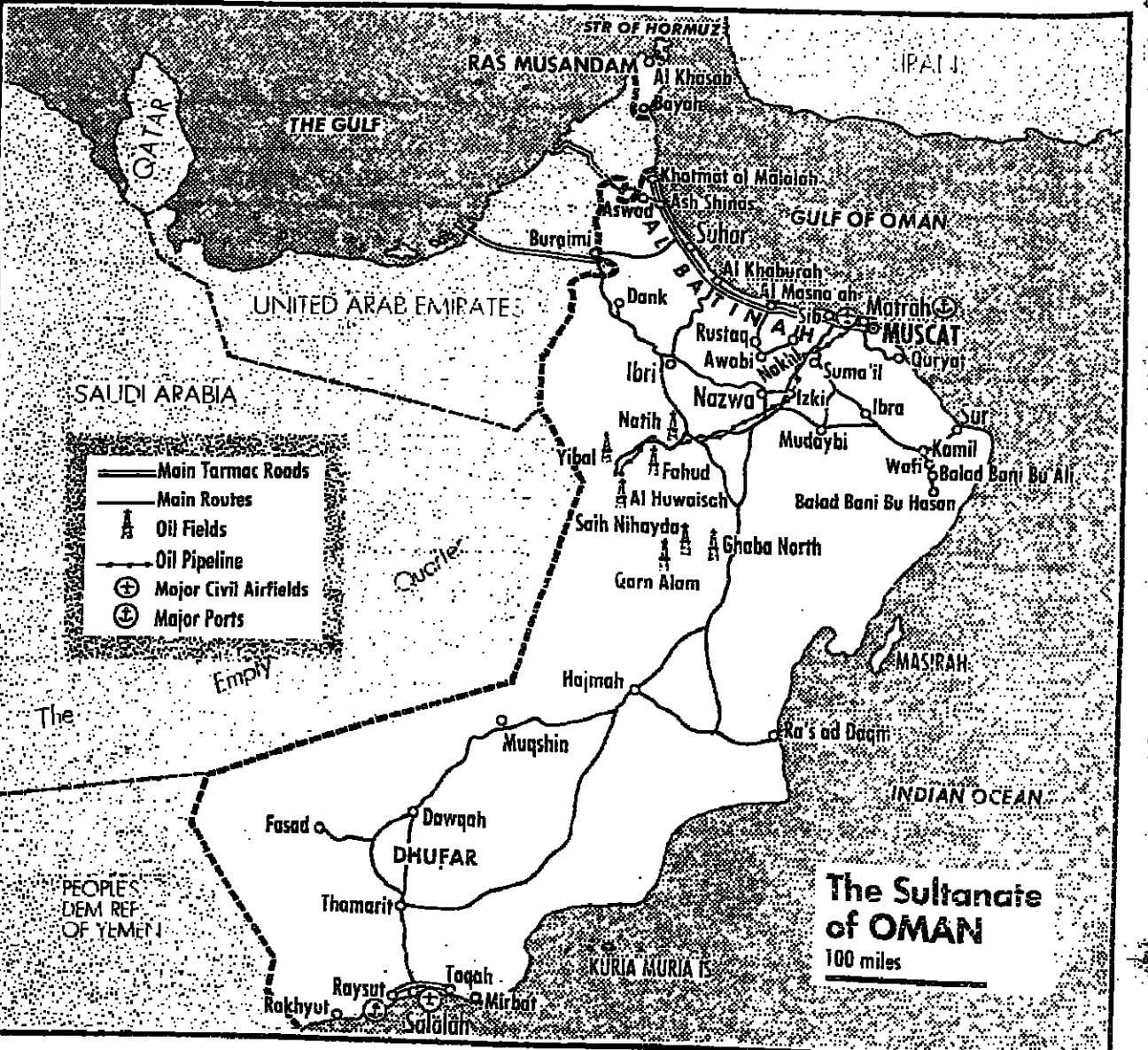
By the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Britain's first treaty was signed with Oman, the sultanate had become a considerable power in its own right. Its maritime empire embraced Zanzibar, 1,000 miles of the east African coastline and parts of southern Persia and Baluchistan. The empire reached its zenith during the rule of the great Sayyid bin Sultan (1791-1856), when its dhows sailed as far as America.

On his death the empire was divided between his eldest and his fourth sons, the east African territory going to Majid and Oman to Thawwaini. A dispute which arose between them over revenue was referred to the Government of India for arbitration. Lord Carnarvon, then Governor-General, ruled that Zanzibar should make an annual payment to Oman of 40,000 Maria Theresa dollars.

Almost immediately the fell into arrears, and the Indian Government took over payment. In 1947 responsibility for this annual payment, known as the Carnarvon Award—passed to Britain being finally discontinued in 1956.

From the time of its partition, however, the empire began to sink, the result of a sharp downturn in trade. One reason for this was the invention of the steamship which supplanted much of the dhow trade on which Oman's maritime power depended. Another reason was the opening in 1869 of the Suez Canal. By the start of the First World War, moreover, Oman's profitable arms trade had been stamped out by the British, who many years earlier had brought about the end of the even more profitable slave traffic.

Oman thus went into a decline which was reversed only after the coup in 1970, when a new era in its history began.



هكذا من الأصل